

The Maryland Yellowthroat

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President's Corner

Barbara Johnson

Writing on Thanksgiving weekend, I reflect with gratitude on opportunities provided by the Maryland Ornithological Society to members across the age spectrum.

One example: I was discussing birds and birding with a bird-obsessed 10-year-old as we explored Fort Smallwood Park on an Anne Arundel Bird Club field trip. I don't recall what had sparked his interest in birds, but he was on fire, memorizing field guides and recounting bird sightings to anyone willing to listen. He was remarkably knowledgeable about plants, too--clearly an outdoor kid.

"None of my friends are interested in birds," he told me. "All they want to do is stay inside playing video games."

Now, three years on, this young man is immersed in YMOS activities (YMOS is the youth subgroup of the Maryland Ornithological Society). He's traveled the state with dozens of like-minded kids and adult mentors, and he's led at least one field trip for his home bird club.

With their devotion to our young members, YMOS leaders George Radcliffe, Wayne Bell, Stacy Epperson and many supportive parents open doors to a lifetime's awareness of science and love of nature. It's profoundly empowering for kids to have adults in their lives who mirror their interests and delight in their successes. MOS history is replete with examples of young birders going on to become cutting-edge scientists after being mentored and driven all over the state by their MOS elders.

But in the natural course of events, those kids get their driver's licenses, go away to college, or move with their families. A scant few

are likely to remain as longtime MOS members, and even fewer will sustain involvement with their chapters throughout adulthood.

A graph depicting ages and numbers of MOS members might show a modest spike around age 11-16, a drop-off in the late teens, a gradual incline into the middle years, and a big uptick beginning (I'm guessing) around 50-55.

"Where", the question is perennially posed, "are the young adults?" At the MOS Retreat in January of 2017, the attendees listed MOS strengths and weaknesses. The "advanced" average age of the MOS membership was raised repeatedly as a problem. How do we attract and keep young people? Don't we need them for the organization to thrive and stay relevant? How can MOS survive with mostly older members filling the roster?

At that point a 60-something member observed that he'd attended his first MOS meeting at age 9, and people were complaining *back then* about the elderly membership.

Later, I told him that he'd gotten me looking at our "age problem" in a new light; specifically, *is it really a problem?*

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MOS is far from the only organization with a dip in the age 20-45 demographic. And every organization benefits from the attributes of all age groups. But people in early-to-mid adulthood are mobile, and they have so many other demands on their lives that many of them simply can't devote time and resources to evening and weekend gatherings and to volunteer activities.

Even if they're already expert birders, they may have become so by spending their time in the field alone, or with peers of equal or greater skill. (While those birders may enjoy guiding field trips, they seem less likely to partake in club and beginner-birder activities.) In my own case, I moved to Maryland in my late 20's, an enthusiastic-if-not-expert birder. I considered joining MOS for 24 years before I finally did so.

The aforementioned member from the retreat told me, "I think older members have always been our sweet spot." Like me, many folks nearing or past retirement venture into the county chapters, finally having space in their lives to pursue an interest in birds. Our older members have greater financial resources and more freedom. We tend not to move for careers. We have leisure time to devote to volunteering (the life blood of MOS). We want to travel and study, and we see ourselves as relevant and contributing members of society. We now live longer and stay physically active for years beyond our predecessors. And many older MOS members are astonishingly adept with current technology. I'm continually awed and grateful for the huge organizational responsibilities undertaken and maintained for years by not-so-young folks, and for the tasks and projects tackled by retirees willing to devote their professional skill, or even to learn on the job. And our very oldest members are MOS's institutional memory-- an invaluable resource.

So, I refuse to pathologize MOS's older demographic. When I first joined my bird club, a new friend shared a joke that I've repeated often, because it exactly describes my situation at the point when I became a member.

A seeker asked three religious elders to define the beginning of life. "*At conception*", said the priest. "*At birth*", said the pastor. Said the

rabbi, "*Life begins after the dog dies and the kids leave home.*"

I spent Black Friday at Blackwater NWR with a group that included a retirement-aged couple, new to birding. The woman had found the field trip through a Google search. She was all but jumping up and down with excitement at her first look through a spotting scope at a pair of perched adult Bald Eagles. I hope they'll join MOS, but in any case, I got as big a kick watching her as I did seeing the YMOS kid identifying his first flying American Widgeon at Fort Smallwood.

I hope MOS continues to keep out the welcome mat for everyone. Let's support our YMOS leaders as they mentor our youngsters, let's celebrate and learn from the energy of our treasured younger adults, and let's be especially grateful for those of us who have time enough to stop, smell the roses, and dive into their interests.



Gail Regester wins pin design contest for 2018 MOS Convention in Ocean City

The winner of the pin design competition for the Ocean City Convention on the Worcester County shore in February, 2018, is Gail Regester of Church Hill, Kent County. Gail is a member of the Kent County Bird Club and a former winner of the pin design contest - her Rose-breasted Grosbeak was featured on the pin for the Edgewood (Harford County) Conference in 2008. Her winning design this time is of a flying male Surf Scoter (shown below), a species everyone will be looking for in OC. A Surf Scoter pin will be provided to all registrants at the Ocean City Convention.

Michael Bowen, Montgomery Bird Club Coordinator, MOS Convention Pin Design Competition



The MOS Awards Program

By Joy Aso

The Maryland Ornithological Society Awards Program serves the State MOS and its Chapters. Awards are prepared at the request of the Chapters, State Committee Chairpersons, and the State Officers. Usually the awards are given to members of MOS, but on occasion MOS recognizes non-members who have been kind or generous to the Society, hosted an unusual bird, or made a contribution to the environment, to conservation, or to the birding community.

Most of the awards we prepare are paper certificates, and there is no charge to the Chapters. However, if the award involves MOS mugs, walnut plaques, acrylic "sign holders," picture frames, and so forth, there is a charge for the cost of those items.

The MOS has three primary award certificates:

1. The Valued Service Award: This is our formal certificate. It's usually given to someone for outstanding sustained performance in some role or capacity. It has an embossed MOS gold seal in the lower middle center of the certificate. It is presented in an elegant dark-blue presentation folder with the MOS seal in gold on the front. The award is accompanied by a "Valued Service Award" lapel pin.
2. The Attagirl/Attaboy Award: A light-hearted certificate. Usually it is awarded for performance over a short period of time, and given to recognize hard work, perhaps at a new job, or for a specific task well done. It is usually (but not always) presented in an acrylic "sign holder."

3. The Blood, Sweat and Tears Award: This is a humorous certificate that recognizes someone who rolled-up their sleeves and tackled a hard, gritty, unglamorous job. It's a comical certificate, torn, stained, and wrinkled. It is usually (but not always) presented rolled-up in an MOS coffee mug, and tied with a strip of frayed bandana.

Other types of awards that we prepare are Certificate of Appreciation, Conservationist of the Year, Distinguished Service Award, Friend of the Society, Bird of the Year, Rookie (birder) of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Feeder Champion, List of the Year, and so forth. We're happy to work with you to create an award that meets your specific needs.

All awards need to be approved by the President or President-elect of the State organization or the Chapter. In addition to preparing awards for Chapters, we also are willing to give advice and assistance if you are in need of other types of awards such as trophies and plaques. If you would like additional information, have questions, or would like to discuss awards, please contact Joy Aso by telephone at (301) 977-5788 or email at smudgie@comcast.net.



Visit the MOS Sanctuaries via Online Videos!

By Marcia Watson, Patuxent Bird Club

MOS now has its own YouTube channel devoted to the MOS Sanctuaries. The YouTube channel was set up by Sanctuary Committee member Liz Nucifora and features videos shot by Dominic Nucifora, Sanctuary Committee Chair. Many of the videos feature stunning aerial footage shot with the Sanctuary Committee's new drone or UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle). You can have the spectacular sensation of flying over the marshes of Irish Grove or go on a serene walk through the forest at Marengo Woods.

Four sanctuaries are shown in "Closer Look" videos: Caroline W. Wilson (Garrett

County), Mandares Creek (Anne Arundel County), Marengo Woods (Talbot County), and Myrtle Simon Pelot (Caroline County). There are also videos explaining sanctuary stewardship, how the Sanctuary Committee will use the drone, and a special thank-you video for donors who helped purchase the drone. More videos will be added over time, so visit often, or subscribe to the YouTube MOS Sanctuary channel to receive notifications when new material is added.

To view the videos, simply go to YouTube.com and search for "MOS Sanctuaries," or use this link:

https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCskeAegI-taqbgLb6G_NW8g



Partnering: Harford Bird Club Supports Science in Schools

**Amanda Koss, Outdoor Educator, Harford
Glen Environmental Center
& Vice President, Harford Bird Club**

The Harford Bird Club has a very special partnership with the students and teachers in Harford County Public Schools. The HBC helps sponsor bird clubs at schools, and our members mentor high school students on capstone projects and they work with fifth graders during their overnight outdoor education experience.

Fifth grade students participate in a three-day, two-night residential program at the county-owned and operated Harford Glen Environmental Education Center. The 370+ acre facility in Bel Air has hosted students since the 1980's. In the past ten years, the teaching staff at Harford Glen has used changes to the curriculum, specifically the transition to the Next Generation Science Standards, to intertwine bird-related lessons and activities. Over the course of three days, students receive seven hours of instruction connected with avian species.

Students have the opportunity to analyze five different styles of bird feeders and match the feeder with the best choice of seed for that particular design. Students also take notes on the cost of the seed and feeders so that if they decide to put up feeders at school they will have

the knowledge to construct a sound budget. Using iPads, the fifth graders learn to use the Merlin App to identify birds. iPads and binoculars help the students observe thirty feeders in 4 different habitats to determine which species of birds use the feeders at Harford Glen. Students receive a 60-minute lesson on how to use binoculars with time at the end to practice adjusting the lenses for their own eyes. Harford Glen has over 100 pairs of Eagle Optic Kingbirds 6.5x32 for the students to use while on site.

On the second morning of their experience, students take a 75-minute bird walk. Harford Bird Club volunteers, Mary Murray and Ruth Bergstrom donate time every Tuesday and Thursday to help the Harford Glen teachers spot species and assist the students in the use of the scope. In addition to a bird walk, some students dive into the science behind Forensic Ornithology and use microscopes to investigate the differences in downy feather barbs related to real cases solved by the Feather ID Lab in Washington, DC. Students have to sift through evidence such as security footage, physical evidence collected at the scene, feathers, slides with the feather barbs isolated and crime scene photos. At the end of the session, each team must present their case and describe the evidence. They must share the results and provide reasons and evidence that support their findings.

Bird banding demonstrations also take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays for students during spring and fall migration. The Master Bander, Dr. Mark Johnson, oversees the operation at Harford Glen which includes Al Conrad, Dave Larkin, Dennis Kirkwood, Amanda Koss, Phil Powers, Jane Scocca, Mary Trotta, Jean Wheeler and Mike White. 80+ volunteer hours are spent at the banding station each week! Students see how mist nets are used to safely capture the birds, how a band is applied, how the furcular hollow is checked for fat, how a bird is aged using molt limits and skulling, how to measure wings and tails and much, much more!

Mary Murray, the Harford Bird Club Education Chair, has initiated bird clubs at many local elementary schools. The clubs meet once a month for one hour before the school day begins. Volunteers from the Harford Bird Club share a

30-minute bird related presentation and then co-lead a bird hike around the schoolyard. Meadowvale Elementary had more than 50 students sign up for the club! As a result of this popularity, the students were split into two groups who attend at different times.

The Harford Bird Club owns a class set (approx. 25) of binoculars (Eagle Optics Shrikes 10x42). The loaner set is available during club hikes and for students to use. The choice to loan out 10x42's was an easy one. If a rookie birder has a good experience during a club event they are more likely to continue the hobby and join the club. Loaning nice, high-powered binoculars aids in providing the most positive experience possible.

Towards the end of their K-12 careers, students at Aberdeen High's Science and Math Academy work with members of the Harford Bird Club on their capstone projects. Many club members mentor students from North Harford High's Natural Resource Magnet Program during final capstone projects.

To conclude, the partnership between the Harford Bird Club and students and staff within Harford County Public Schools runs deep. The Harford Bird Club looks forward to a continued positive relationship spreading our extensive knowledge to students and developing the future bird nerds of our county.



MOS 2018 Hog Island Scholarships Announcement

The Maryland Ornithological Society is happy to announce that it is awarding eight scholarships to the National Audubon Society's Hog Island camps in Maine for the summer of 2018.

Representing Howard County are Heidi Osterman and Anna Schrad. Heidi is currently a volunteer at the Robinson Nature Center where she has spent over 160 hours helping children and adults identify and appreciate the flora and

fauna. She is thrilled to be attending the Sharing Nature: an Educator's Week. Anna Schrad, a member of the Howard bird club, hopes to use the knowledge obtained from the Hog Island workshop to help her become a leader of future bird walks and programs.

The Tri-County Bird Club has recommended three people: Brian Phillips, Steve Wehlan, and Aurelio Giannitti who will all attend the Field Ornithology workshop. Brian is a teacher at Stephen Decatur HS and hopes that the information obtained from the Field Ornithology workshop will inspire the members of the high school's bird club. Steve is also a public school teacher who works at Berlin Intermediate School. He has been involved for most of his teaching career promoting outdoor education, ecology, and environmental science. Aurelio is the Education Director of the Ward Museum of Wildlife Art in Salisbury. He works with all ages, from two-years old to adults, in many different birding-related programs.

Thomas Moorman is a recent college graduate and currently works as a Chesapeake Conservation Corps volunteer at Patterson Park in Baltimore. His primary focus is on Elementary Education programs and is sure that the Sharing Nature workshop will help him develop exciting lessons for the 4th and 5th graders at the park.

Colleen Lacy also hails from Baltimore and is a naturalist at Lake Roland which is operated by the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks. There are several resident eagles in the park and Colleen has registered for the Raptor Rapture workshop to help her hone her identification skills. She also wants to continue fostering an appreciation of wildlife, especially with children from urban environments.

Our last scholarship winner is Ikumi Kayama, recommended by the Patuxent Bird Club. Ikumi is a professional medical and science illustrator. She has spent the last nine years working with experts and educators to create science/nature education materials and working with youths in hands-on workshops. Ikumi is delighted to attend the Field Ornithology Workshop which will give her inspiration and resources to strengthen her workshops with youths.

Congratulations to these 2018 Hog Island Campers and also to the chapters and colleagues who recommended them.

Anna Urciolo
Chair, MOS Scholarship Committee



YMOS News Fall 2017 By George Radcliffe

YMOS Presentations

The YMOS youth birders have developed a presentation that chapters may be interested in putting on their agenda. The presentation will be given at an upcoming State environmental education conference (Maryland Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education) in February. Contact George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com), and we will try to link up YMOS students with your club.

World Series of Birding and the Birdathon

After last May's successful participation in the World Series of Birding in New Jersey, 5 youth teams are organizing for another run next May. YMOS is planning on fielding 2 high school teams, 2 middle school teams, and a Carbon-Free team. As last year, the group will hold its annual Birdathon this coming March. Last year's successful Birdathon allowed us to field 6 teams in the national competition, and the group is indebted to the many who pledged funds to support the teams. While more information on this year's Birdathon will be forthcoming, any

pledges can be emailed to me at the above address.

Assateague Island Youth Birding Competition

On September 8, youth from across Maryland gathered at Assateague Island for the First Annual Assateague Island Youth Carbon-Free Competition. Organized by Zach Baer, 4 teams traversed the Island from 5 AM to 5 PM, identifying as many species as possible. Traveling only by bike or on foot, the teams collectively found 120 species during the day. All were amazed at the diversity of species found and by the spectacular early morning heron and egret flight. One's student's recollections of the event are found below.

Assateague Island Carbon-Free Big Day By Jonathan Irons (Grade 7)

It was 4:15 a.m. when my teammates and I arrived at the Assateague boat ramp with our bikes and binoculars. We were preparing for the start of the First Annual Assateague Island Carbon-Free Big Day, a carbon-free birding competition on Assateague Island in Worcester County, Maryland. The event was organized by Zach Baer (who was also our coach) and George Radcliffe (the YMOS club leader) and was held on Saturday, September 8. Our team name was the "Pedaling Petrels" and included team members Jerald Reb, Gabe Evans, my brother Daniel Irons, myself, plus our outstanding coach Zack Baer, all of whom were exceptional birders and bikers. We joined forces and traveled to the Assateague causeway, where we would begin our first ever carbon-free big day.

We arrived at our first birding spot around 4:45 a.m. As we were standing around the causeway waiting for the official start, the three other YMOS teams joined us. At 5:00 a.m., the official start of the competition, our team began to rack up numerous nighttime marsh birds and nocturnal migrants flying overhead. Some of the birds we heard were Savannah Sparrow, Bobolink, Killdeer, Great Horned Owl, Whimbrel, and Green Heron, most of which were hard to come by during the daylight hours.

After searching the marshy area near the causeway, our team headed over to a small pond next to the road often known as the "Night Heron Pond" in search of the Yellow-crowned Night

Heron. We arrived just before dawn to catch the early morning flight of night herons coming in to roost in the dense bayberries. Although we were unsuccessful at finding this elusive species, we did observe many Black-crowned Night Herons, which was a new bird to add to our already impressive species list. While admiring the countless flocks of Black-crowned Night Herons, we spotted two other heron-like birds. These two birds had longer bills and thinner heads and necks. They also were browner in color with tan streaking on their chest. We had spotted two American Bitterns! These birds are nearly impossible to discover because they usually hide in dense reedy swamps. When not feeding, they point their bill skyward, making most birders overlook them as just more reeds.

From the night heron pond, we headed over to Bayside Point for the sunrise heron and warbler flight. On the way to the point, an American Woodcock flushed from the side of the road, another awesome bird to add to our growing list. Arriving at Bayside Point we immediately hiked out to the beach catching the beginning of the heron and egret morning flight. As we scoped the bay, we were astonished by the quantity of herons flying by. Some of the birds we found over the bay included uncountable flocks of Tricolored Herons, Little Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Snowy Egrets, plus a Black Skimmer, Black Scoters, a few Brown Pelicans, and a lone Sanderling scurrying on the beach. While watching the heron flight, we noticed large waves of American redstarts flying over with many other warblers mixed in. The identifiable species included Black-throated Blue Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Northern Parula, Blackburnian Warbler and Black-and-White Warbler. Also flying over the Bay was a mix of waterfowl which included a pair of Common Loons, one Northern Pintail, two Mallards and a flock of Black Scoters. Upon finishing scoping the Bay, our team headed to the more wooded area of the point where we picked up many songbirds including, Baltimore Oriole, House Wren, Red-eyed Vireo, Magnolia Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Veery, and other more common species. We finished birding the Point and biked to the nearby campgrounds in search of more warblers and songbirds. As we were peddling through the campground, we spotted a few Solitary Sandpipers wading in the puddles near the

campsites. The campground wasn't super-birdy, but we managed to find a few good birds such as Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and large concentrations of Baltimore Orioles. From the campgrounds we headed over to the parking lot of the Life of the Marsh Trail in search of the previously reported Clay-colored Sparrow. We did not find this small skittish sparrow, but we managed to uncover a skulking Yellow-breasted Chat.

Next on our bike route was the Life of the Forest Trail, a great spot to see Brown-headed Nuthatch and possibly more migrant warblers. After parking our bikes, we eagerly scurried into the dense pine forest. Upon entering, a large mixed flock of warblers and vireos appeared above us flitting through the canopy. In the mix we found Pine Warblers, White-eyed Vireo, Scarlet Tanager and a brightly colored Yellow-throated Vireo, which is an exceptional bird on the Island. As we birded down the trail, we discovered a Black-throated Green Warbler, a small flock of Brown-headed Nuthatches foraging in the top of the towering pines and a good look at a Bay-breasted Warbler feeding in the understory.

Following the very productive stop, our team had an extensive bike ride to the Life of the Dunes Trail. Upon arriving we quickly had a lunch and water break and eagerly scurried down the quiet trail only to hear a lonely Blue Grosbeak. We continued down the trail for quite some time and turned onto a small path that headed into an area of stunted pines with a thick understory of greenbriers. As we trudged through these burly briars, we spotted a flash of yellow near the ground. Once we got our binoculars on the bird, we noticed it had a contrasting black cap which is diagnostic of a Wilson's Warbler. This bird was staying well obscured, but everyone managed to get a decent look at it through the dense briars. Once back at the trailhead, we did a quick scope of the sea from the top of the dune and picked up a Common Tern and Great Black-backed Gull. From the Life of the Dunes Trail we had a treacherous but fun peddle to Shell Road. While in route we quickly swung by the Life of the Marsh Trail and picked up a flock of Forster's Terns and a flyby Tree Swallow. As we continued to Shell Road, we spotted both a flyover Coopers Hawk and Peregrine Falcon.

We arrived at Shell Road and began our one-mile trek up the beach to a mud flat known as the "Curlew Flats" where we would search for shorebirds. We did a little birding around the trail head and spotted a single Field Sparrow. As we were traveling up the beach along the ocean, we picked out a Spotted Sandpiper foraging on the beach with the flocks of Sanderlings. When we arrived at the Curlew Flats, we were greeted by two other teams. Scoping the mud flats, we found numerous shorebirds including Piping Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Least Sandpiper, American Oystercatcher, Semipalmated Plover and an early Dunlin.

After the Curlew Flats, we trekked back to the bikes and traveled to the Assateague Bridge in search of a few mainland species. Hiking to the top of the pedestrian bridge, we scoped over the mainland and managed to find two new species: a Purple Martin and some crows feeding along the water. We were pumped with excitement at these two new species. With only 15 minutes remaining in the competition we eagerly hustled to the finish line.

We arrived at the finish line with two minutes to spare...just enough time to take a quick peek over the dunes to look for a Lesser Black-backed Gull. Sure enough, as we looked over the dunes, there it was! A medium-sized gull with a darker mantle than the Herring Gull and yellow legs. The Lesser Black-backed Gull was not only a good bird, but it was the last bird checked off our list that day. Once our whole team was on the bird, we quickly ran back to the finish line, arriving with only ten seconds left on the clock.

The big day ended with all teams feasting on pizza under the pavilion, eagerly sharing stories and species. Our team finished with 107 different species of birds. The total combined team list of species found on Assateague Island that day was 120. Overall, it was an outstanding day and I am hoping to improve my carbon-free big-day skills on the 2018 Assateague Island Carbon-Free Big Day.



Beyond Birding: Trees, An Underground Social Network?

By Colin Rees, Anne Arundel

Off and on, I have been reading an extraordinary book *The Hidden Life of Trees: Why They Feel, How They Communicate* by Peter Wohlleben, a German forester. The author presents trees as a networked, intentionally collaborative and talkative community. They 'experience pain and have memories ... parents live together with their children'. They can behave well or badly. Some bully; others grasp, are wasteful with energy or frantically impatient to grow.

They are aware of decreasing temperatures in the autumn and can 'compare day lengths ... and count warm days in the spring'. Should a neighboring tree fall down, trees close by 'suffer the temptation to do something stupid' by growing a branch in the new space. It's 'an individual choice and, therefore, a question of character'.

Wohelleben goes on to claim that trees 'pass on their knowledge to the next generation' by teaching and learning and therefore are social agents with a high level of control over how their bodies grow and function. The latter is mediated in the sensitive, searching filaments of thousands of root tips or chemical messages fanning through the forest floor via symbiotic fungal mycelium.

Wohelleben cites studies demonstrating sensory alertness in leaves and examples of caterpillar attacks stimulating electrical signals and prompting the release of defensive compounds. Trees broadcast to other trees aiding them to pre-empt similar attacks.

To support the author's claims, the book ends with a note by Suzanne Simard, Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia. Using mass spectrometers and scintillation counters, she found 'carbon being transmitted back and forth between the trees, like neurotransmitters firing in our own neural

networks. The trees were communicating through the web!'.



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

John William Taylor Jr. (1931 - 2017)

John "Bud" Taylor, a long-time member of AABC, passed away on October 28, 2017. During his long career he was employed with the Division of Birds at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC, studied Art at the Corcoran School of Art, and worked as an Editor/Artist with The Maryland Conservationist. His commission by the National Geographic Society and the National Wildlife Foundation led to his self-employment of the last several decades as a wildlife artist. He authored two books published by Johns Hopkins Press entitled, *Birds of the Chesapeake* and *Chesapeake Spring*.

Bud Taylor designed Maryland's first deer and trout stamps and was selected as the artist for Maryland's first Waterfowl Stamp in 1974. He won the Duck Stamp contest in 1979 and was selected in 1984 as the winner of the Florida Duck Stamp contest. His life and work were documented on Maryland Public Television's *Maryland Outdoors*. His later years were spent painting in his studio working primarily with oils. He is known for painting birds, landscapes and marsh-scapes, often with a wildlife motif. He loved everything nature, baseball, playing old-time music on his banjo and especially, birds. Bud loved to watch nature and wrote extensively about his experiences. His love affair with birds started in the fourth grade and never wavered. His skill as an artist led to numerous awards. His humorous charm and love for nature was always

evident. He always had time to introduce someone to birds or entertain them with some banjo pickin'. (Obituary taken in part from *The Capital*)

Congratulations to *Chris Barry*, a member of the AABC, who joined the Chesapeake Conservancy in 2016, as a Wildlife Webcam Intern to help with their public relations and outreach concerning wildlife, a position he continues to hold today. Chris has a strong interest in ornithology, wildlife biology and conservation. In addition to being an AABC member and walk leader, he was the Captain of the MOS 2016 World Series of Birding Youth Team and has been in YMOS since 2014. Chris was one of only eighteen students selected for the Summer 2017 Young Birder Event at the Cornell Lab. He is not only an avid birder but also enjoys fishing, fossil hunting, animal study and many other activities, including leadership and volunteer experiences with the Boy Scouts; he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout this year with 46 merit badges and over 1,000 hrs. of service. Chris is a senior at Indian Creek School and in the STEM Program. He hopes to become a genetic researcher/biologist. This summary barely scratches the surface of Chris' interests and accomplishments. As busy as he is, AABC is fortunate to have him as an active member. (Copied from AABC's *Pandion Platform*)

BALTIMORE COUNTY

Lynne Parks curated the art exhibition "Birdland and the Anthropocene" at the Peale Center in downtown Baltimore October 5-29. In the exhibition, thirty artists responded creatively to the effects of human beings on bird life. Some were angry, some were sad, some were whimsical with a touch of sadness. The Opening Night party on October 6 attracted well over 100 people; birders and Baltimore artists were well-represented. Major donors for the show were BG&E and the Baltimore Bird Club. Congratulations, Lynne! Peter Lev

CAROLINE COUNTY

The Caroline County Bird Club held its 4th Annual *Big Sit* on Saturday, October 7 at Tuckahoe State Park. The event was cut short due to the park double-booking the area for a wedding. Despite the shortness of the event, the *Big Sit* participants enjoyed their morning of

birding. The Club donated \$1 per species seen or heard to the Tuckahoe State Park Scales and Tales program. *Debby Bennett*



Caroline County *Big Sit* Sign. Photo by Danny Poet

CECIL COUNTY

It started with a Cecil Bird Club field trip to Woodlawn Reserve this past spring. Club President *Maryanne Dolan* was concerned over the swallows competing for a limited number of nest boxes in the meadow. She indicated that the CBC could donate some more nest boxes to the reserve. *Ken Drier*, the trip leader and monitor of the boxes already in place, brought the suggestion to *Sara Cousins* who is the Manager of Conservation and Projects for the Woodlawn Preserve. *Sara* was of course enthusiastic and approached *Arcadia* who manages the former Bridgestone superfund site for permission to put up some additional nest boxes. The project was approved. CBC treasurer, *Paula Conoscenti*, has a neighbor who makes Bluebird nest boxes as a hobby and commissioned her to knock out five new boxes for the club's project. Just last year *Paula* and her crew put up nest boxes at Elk Neck State Park at Turkey Point. The boxes were recently secured and scheduling for their installation has taken place. Charter club members *Parke John* and *Ken Drier* will assist *Paula* along with *Maryanne* to plant the new boxes at Woodlawn on Monday November 20th just in time for Thanksgiving. A team effort has once again increased CBC's conservation footprint in the local community. A job well done.

The Asa Wright Nature Center in Trinidad is celebrating their 50th year anniversary as one

of the premier birding destinations in the world. To help them celebrate, noted field guide illustrator and author *David Sibley* was there giving workshops in early November. Unfortunately he left the morning. CBC club members *Maryanne Dolan* and *Ken Drier* joined the Delaware Nature Society for a ten-day swing through Trinidad and Tobago. *David Sibley* was about the only thing the two of them missed during their stay there. *Asa Wright* is known for their hummingbirds and the ability to observe 60 bird species before breakfast while sitting on their veranda. By breakfast the first day, eight species of hummingbirds were identified by the CBC crew as well as fantastic honeycreepers, oropendulas and beautiful tanagers. By the end of the second day all three trogons were seen as well as a Bat Falcon and three species of nighthawks, the Common Pauraque, the White-tailed Nightjar and the Common Potoo. How cool. Over the course of the next several days Wattled Jacanas, Yellow-headed Caracaras, and four species of parrots all put in appearances. The local guides were excellent and worked hard. Everyone, all ten in the group, had good looks at all the birds. Trinidad Motmots with their long tails were seen just about every day. The group took a boat trip into a swamp late one afternoon to watch as thousands of Snowy Egrets, Tricolored Herons and the Scarlet Ibis came home for the evening and settled into the trees. The last day on Trinidad the group hiked into the jungle and down to a cave where the Oilbirds roost. These are nocturnal fruit-eating birds that use echolocation like bats to forage for their dinner. On Tobago the group picked up Southern Lapwings. The local leader was most excited about the extremely rare Blue-winged Teal and two Northern Shovelers at the sewage plant! These were life birds for him just the week before. Just goes to show.

The last day the group again ventured out on the water, this time to Little Tobago just a couple of miles off the coast. After a hike up the mountain through the jungle to an open cliff Red-billed Tropicbirds with their long tails soared and circled before the group while Red-footed Boobies with their feet out put on a spectacular show landing on the cliff face. What a great way to end the trip! In all, over 150 species of birds were tallied. *Ken* estimates about half were new life birds for him including all 10 species of

hummingbirds observed. A great way to ease into the turning of the clocks back and the beginning of cooler weather up here in the northern climes.

Ken Drier

HARFORD COUNTY

"I love good birding, I really do," was a common refrain from our Birding EcoTours' young trip leader who guided 12 members of the Harford Bird Club on a round the country tour of South Africa. The trip was organized by *Dennis & Jean Kirkwood* and included HBC members *Don & Deb Stewart, Joe & Melody Stevens, Sue & Larry Procell, Bob & Sue Hood, Marjie Heagy, Sarah MacLellan, Tom Congersky and Tom Gibbons*. Led by co-leaders, Dylan and Wian, we all enjoyed good birding, seeing over 370 species on our 18 day excursion through a variety of habitats. Our trip started in Cape Town, headed north through the bushland to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and west over mountains to Krueger National Park. One day, we visited a botanical gardens to birdwatch for the morning and a waste treatment plant for an afternoon of waterfowl sightings. Sounds like good birding, doesn't it? In addition to birds, we were treated to finding the "Big 5" and many more mammals between the two reserves. Everyday, I would pause to reflect in awe of what I was seeing and say to myself, "I'm in Africa!" Our guides related the country's culture, history, and knowledge of birds and wildlife and ably wove information into the daily travels and sightings. Now that I am back to birding in Harford County, you may hear me repeating the refrain I brought home, "I love good birding, I really do." *Deb Stewart*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

In a recent note, *Robert Parsons* described how he crossed the line to 3,500 life birds, and more: "In August, I went on a two-week birding trip to Bolivia, with a friend from Oregon. On this trip, we saw almost 300 species of birds including over 100 new life birds. While birding in the area between Saipina and San Isidro, a group of White-fronted Woodpeckers gave a great show for my 3,500 life bird--helping me to finally reach a goal of having seen over one-third of the world's species of birds. This ten-day trip to Bolivia was also a unique experience since it was guided by Rudy Gelis who in 2015, along with three friends, set the World Big Day record with

431 species. Of course he had a lot of fun stories to share. A few months later, I was able to go on another two-week birding trip, this time to Madagascar. Although we only saw 150 species on this trip, over 100 of them were endemic and so new life birds for me. It is never too late to start! I have been birding for just over ten years, starting as a way to spend more time with my father, a life-long avid birder--and have now become hooked on birds. Having a job that requires extensive travel, I'm lucky enough to have been birding in over 70 countries and 40 states." *Chris Wright*

TRI-COUNTY

Marylee Ross and Paul Bystrak spent a week in the San Diego area recently. Several days were work related, but we also got to spend a few days in Borrego Springs in the desert. On the first day, we were lucky to be able to join a bird trip being led by a local expert, Kurt Lueschner. We ended up seeing about 67 species that day, including the Sagebrush Sparrow, Costa's and Anna's hummingbirds, a Sora and a Marsh Wren in a tiny marsh, Bewick's Wren, Western Wood-peewee, clumps of Phainopeplas, a Long-eared Owl nest, Band-tailed Pigeons (and 4 other species of doves), and the usual suspects. A trip to the Salton Sea a couple days later added a lot more species, but missed the current exotic sensation - a White-throated Sparrow! It was the hottest it has ever been in October - over 100 degrees on most days, but it's a dry heat.... *Paul Bystrak*

WASHINGTON COUNTY

In mid-September 2017, *Heather McSharry and Mark Abdy* of the Washington County Bird Club travelled to northern Botswana for four days of birding along the Chobe River. This was early spring and the end of the dry season, making for excellent wildlife viewing as animals of all kinds made their way to the Chobe, the only major water source in the area. Cruising the river on a pontoon boat made for very comfortable and productive wetland birding, at least when the thousands of big mammals were not getting in the way! Walking the grounds of the lovely Chobe Savannah Lodge yielded some additional upland birds. We observed a total of 60 species, all of them lifers for Heather on her first trip to Africa. Highlights included five

kingfisher species, from the powerful Giant Kingfisher to the diminutive and jewel-like Malachite Kingfisher. Three bee-eaters species were a joy to watch as they pursued insects and we were especially glad to see the spectacular Southern Carmine Bee-eater, just back from its wintering grounds in equatorial Africa. The always dignified, if not stern looking, Yellow-billed and Red-billed Hornbills were common. Impressive African Fish Eagles were so common that we almost stopped watching them while a single individual of the Slaty Egret, an uncommon regional endemic, represented our rarest species observation. *Heather McSharry*



Lilac-breasted Roller. Photo by Mark Abdy



Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report as of November 28, 2017

by Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

The Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC) reached the following record decisions since the last committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report encompasses MD/DCRC review package 170. MD/DCRC report numbers are in brackets.

These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*.

New "state" species (marked with asterisks) include Masked Booby and Crested Caracara for MD. These additions bring the species total of the Official List of the Birds of MD to 451. A mistake was recently corrected regarding the status of Barnacle Goose in DC. This taxon had previously been shown as an accepted species for DC; however, this is incorrect and the MD/DCRC DC database has been corrected. The revised species total for the Official List of the Birds of DC now stands at 338.

More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web pages at the following URL:

<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcindex.html>

MD Records Accepted:

Cory's Shearwater (Scopoli's), *Calonectris diomedea diomedea* [MD/2017-036].

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 17-Aug-1991. One or more birds.

Cory's Shearwater (Scopoli's), *Calonectris diomedea diomedea* [MD/2011-385].

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 14-Aug-2011. One bird.

Cory's Shearwater (Scopoli's), *Calonectris diomedea diomedea* [MD/2017-039].

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 16-Nov-2013. One bird.

Cory's Shearwater (Scopoli's), *Calonectris diomedea diomedea* [MD/2014-062].

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 23-Aug-2014. One bird.

Cory's Shearwater (Scopoli's), *Calonectris diomedea diomedea* [MD/2014-056].

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 23-Aug-2014. One bird.

Masked Booby, *Sula dactylatra

[MD/2016-038]. Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 21-Aug-2016. One, probable subadult.

Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2017-033]. Chesapeake Bay, Tilghman Island, Talbot County. 21-Jul-2017. One adult.

***Crested Caracara**, *Caracara cheriway* [MD/2017-030]. Drayden, Saint Mary's County. 10-Jun-2017. One bird.

MD Records Not Accepted:

Nashville Warbler (Calaveras), *Oreothlypis ruficapilla ridgwayi* [MD/2005-052]. Upper Watts Branch Park, Rockville, Montgomery County. 20-Sep-2004 through 21-Sep-2004. One bird.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), *Setophaga coronata auduboni* [MD/2008-079]. Summer Solstice Farm, Westminster, Carroll County. 26-Sep-2008. One adult female.



The Future of Ornithology, Part III

By Colin Rees, Anne Arundel, Chair, MOS Long-range Planning Committee

The concluding part of this series explores recent advances in our understanding of birdlife in the full annual life cycle, the impact of climate change, and actions needed for the conservation of avifauna.

Beyond breeding biology: advances in understanding birds over the full annual cycle.

About 4,000 species of birds are regular migrants – some 40 per cent of the world's total. In the US, about 250 species (27 percent) migrate – especially insect-eaters that are denied sufficient food during winter. Yet most studies on these migrants have focused on the months spent at breeding areas at the expense of knowing what birds do outside the breeding season -- all the more poignant given that most mortality occurs during that period and where conservation efforts remain germinative.

Happily, ornithologists are making advances in understanding birds over their full annual cycle as a result of long-term datasets now being mobilized from the tropical regions and major technological advances, such as geolocators. Previously, surveys, banding

exercises, and isotope studies revealed a partial appreciation of species-level migration routes and wintering locations. Now technical means provide daily accounts about where and how fast an individual bird travels. Such information is being increasingly combined with physiological studies to test and refine theoretical models of maximum flight ranges based on flight costs and fuel storage. Also, as some individual birds occupy more than one discrete wintering area, a more critical examination of how we define and differentiate between stopover and wintering ranges is underway.

Climate change

Given that many species in the continental US are advancing their range northwards in response to warmer temperatures, statistical models linking species occurrence to climate are being used to predict future changes in distribution. In North America, 177 of 305 species of birds tracked have shifted their centers of abundance during winter northward by 35 miles on average as compared to 40 years ago. Equally, the marathon flights undertaken by birds to spring breeding grounds are turning into even more epic journeys (the length of some migrations could increase, in Europe by as much as 250 miles).

Gary Langham of the National Audubon Society and colleagues at the Cornell Laboratory for Ornithology have assessed geographic range shifts for 588 North American bird species during both the breeding and non-breeding seasons under a range of future carbon emission scenarios to the end of the century. They have shown that 314 species (53%) are projected to lose more than half of their current geographic range. For 126 species, loss occurs without associated range expansion, while for 188 species, loss is coupled with the potential to colonize new replacement range. Very significantly, they found only weak relationships between projected climate sensitivities and existing conservation prioritizations: species responses were not clearly related to habitat affinities, migration strategies, or climate change scenarios. Accordingly, they urge that climate sensitivity be included in current conservation planning and that adaptive management strategies be developed to accommodate

shrinking and shifting geographic ranges. The persistence of many North American birds will depend on their ability to colonize climatically suitable areas outside of current ranges and management actions that focus on climate adaptation. Of note, the British Trust for Ornithology is developing a model to predict likely changes in species population size, rather than simply distribution, as it is abundance and population trends that drive much conservation listing and prioritization of actions.

Some of the most interesting studies are investigating the timing of migration and exploring the implications for how migratory birds may adjust to climate change. Geolocators are revealing remarkable constancy in migration timing within species and individuals: birds that have been tracked repeatedly for up to three years appear to time their migrations almost identically each year. These findings suggest that the timing of migration may be more 'hard-wired' than previously suspected, and birds may not be able to make facultative adjustments to changing climates. If so, as David Altshuler and his co-workers suggest, we should expect population-level consequences of phenological mismatches between birds and their resources before selection can act to shift endogenous migration programming.

Advances in understanding birds over their entire annual cycle now extend beyond Palearctic-African and Nearctic-Neotropical migrants to include residents of tropical regions. Much of the variation in fecundity and survival in tropical communities is driven by climate. Thus, since climate change scenarios predict decreases in precipitation for many parts of the tropics, considerable reshuffling of tropical bird communities is anticipated in coming years.

Conservation actions

Conservation is perhaps the ultimate multidisciplinary activity. It mobilizes the disciplines of population dynamics, systematics and molecular biology, migration, ecological adaptation, physiology, and behavior, in support of conserving birds and their habitats. But to be effective, it must bring the most rigorous scientific analysis to bear on issues and present findings in a clearly understandable form that is

relevant to decision-making. As the latter aspect increasingly engages political and socio-economic domains and civil society, efforts are being directed at establishing partnerships and gaining ownership for actions to be prioritized, funded, and implemented to address development pressures.

Many species of North American and European birds consist of distinct eastern and western populations that appear to occupy different wintering areas and use different migratory routes. Work on avian habitat use in recipient tropical countries has helped inform habitat restoration programs, Important Bird Area designations or listings, and management of productive landscapes, such as coffee plantations. However, major gaps remain in applying research to on-the-ground conservation. In combination, long-term breeding season monitoring, new geolocator data, and multiple-locus DNA analysis should help determine which population declines in North America and Europe may be attributed to habitat loss or other disturbance on wintering grounds, along migratory routes or on breeding ranges. With such insights, conservation actions can be targeted at regions for more effective protection of migratory birds.

Many attempts are being taken at the national, regional, and state levels to mainstream avian conservation. Bird breeding atlases have been prepared and updated, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is supporting bird conservation initiatives in a number of states, and national and local conservation organizations are funding a broadening array of conservation projects. In Maryland, the State Wild Action Plan, revised in 2015, provides an appreciation of Maryland's natural environment and its avifauna, connects scientific knowledge about species and habitats with known threats, and describes conservation actions to enhance good stewardship of the state's natural assets—and thereby the protection of bird species—over the next decade. A final section of SWAP includes an action plan and describes the role of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership as a long-term vehicle for the conservation of birdlife in Maryland.

In parallel, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has developed an

initiative entitled *Maryland's Green Infrastructure*, a mapped network of large blocks of intact forest and wetlands, linked together by linear features such as forested stream valleys, ridgelines, or other natural areas, called "corridors or habitat highways." The approach, based on principles of landscape ecology and conservation biology, provides an ecological network map (GreenPrint) which uses satellite imagery to characterize land cover, and has Geographic Information System (GIS) data on roads, streams, wetlands and other resource features, and links to biological databases. Non-natural gaps were identified as potential candidates for restoration activities.

The DNR Natural Heritage Program's Biodiversity Conservation Network (BioNet), has prioritized ecologically significant areas for the conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need, integrated its numerous "focal area" maps into a single map called Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs). These have been incorporated into the GreenPrint map product. GreenPrint also assists state programs in working together by offering a more comprehensive picture of areas important to DNR as a whole.

Such a process has taken many forms in other states, but all have faced the practical application of the next step: saving lands and waterways through targeted acquisitions, easements, and other interventions. Land conservation programs have been enacted, including agricultural preservation, private conservation easements, and regulations conserving wetlands and shorelines. However, they are piecemeal approaches, and much of North America's and Maryland's green infrastructure currently remains unprotected.

Not long ago, streaming flocks of waterfowl often darkened the skies over the Chesapeake Bay as swans, geese, and ducks filled the air with haunting music. Shorebirds swarmed over mudflats. In forests, songsters announced their spring arrival. They still come, but their numbers are greatly diminished. Such spectacles may soon only remain in the memories of the elderly. What will our grandchildren say if these treasures are no more, and we leave them a world without flight and song? We have the tools. What is needed is

concerted action. Dedicating ourselves to mobilizing civil society to help support conservation actions at personal and community levels. And, also dedicating ourselves to scale up gains on the ground so they may be realized at state and country levels.



MOS Calendar:
Jan - Feb 2018
By Marilyn Veek

Monday, January 1, 2018

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Bowie. Volunteers are needed to census birds in a 15-mile diameter circle in the vicinity of Bowie. Choose your own start and stop times, then come to a tally rally at the end of the day to share your data and socialize. Contact compiler David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, to volunteer and to receive an assignment.

■ Harford. Perryman Area. Celebrate the New Year or recover from New Year's Eve by getting back to nature in the always productive Perryman Area. 8:30 AM. Meet at the Wal-Mart parking lot. Leader Phil Powers, 443-417-7520 or birdsinmd308@gmail.com.

■ Howard. Start Your Year List. Easy walking on paved paths and woodland trails. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year where every bird is new! Facilities available. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Howard Conservancy Mount Pleasant Farm. Leader Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net or 410-461-1643.

Wednesday, January 3

■ Baltimore. First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry. One of a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in inclement weather. 8 AM. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

Thursday, January 4

MEETING. **Frederick.** Members Night/Quiz Night. 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd, Frederick.

■ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, January 5

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Inwood, WV.** Compiler Bob Dean, bobdean52@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Smith Island, MD and Tangier Island, VA.** Dependent on availability of hotels, restaurants, ferries, etc. Contact Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com for further information.

Saturday, January 6

■ **Anne Arundel.** Kinder Farm Park. The park has a lot of trails and diverse habitat with fields and wooded areas to explore. Alan produced a checklist of the birds of the Park and walks and explores this area regularly. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at Kinder Farm Park. Take the first left before the gatehouse (free entry). Meet at the last parking lot up the hill. Contact leaders Alan and Susan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

■ **Baltimore.** Middle Branch Park and Southwest Area Park. We'll begin at one of the city's best spots for winter ducks, Middle Branch Park. Five species of diving ducks probable, with hundreds of individuals on good days. Then we'll head to SWAP, a vast former landfill now a Baltimore County park. Reliable for dabbling ducks, raptors, woodpeckers, and sparrows. Uncommon species show up yearly. 8 AM. Meet at Middle Branch Park in the main parking lot by the city rec office, 3301 Waterview Ave. Canceled in bad weather. Leader Frank Morgan, flm003@gmail.com or 410-487-1110.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY. **Carroll.** Talk birds, eat, drink, and have fun with fellow birders. Sue and Splinter Yingling, hostess/host. 70 Ridge Rd, Westminster. 7:30 PM. Please coordinate with the

Yinglings to bring a dish at syngling@mac.com or 410-857-0902.

■ **Cecil.** Perryville Community Park. One of Cecil County's prime duck viewing locations. Seeking out winter waterfowl at the Park and along the Susquehanna River. Dress for extreme cold and wind. Bring scope if you have one. A mix of driving and some walking. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the North East Community Park (at the end of Walnut St). Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

MID-WINTER COUNT. **Frederick.** Meet at Audrey Carroll Sanctuary at 6:30 AM, and be prepared to visit all parts of the sanctuary's 129 acres. You may want your waterproof boots. Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082.

■ **Kent.** Friends of Eastern Neck NWR will sponsor a Refuge walk through areas normally closed to the public. A local birding expert or naturalist will guide the walk. Plan for a flat, two-mile outing of about two hours, with cocoa and cookies at Refuge HQ afterwards. Bring binoculars and a camera. Wear boots and dress warmly. No rain date. Registration is limited to 20, first-come, first-served. Children over 12 are permitted, but no dogs. Walks are free (with a tax-deductible donation payable to Friends of Eastern Neck appreciated to keep the program self-sustaining). To register at Eventbrite, go to: <http://bit.ly/2vWPDBt>. 8 AM. Meet at Refuge HQ. For more information, contact Gren Whitman, easternneckwalks@gmail.com or 443-691-9370.

■ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ **Tri-county.** Coastal Birding trip from Ocean City, MD to Cape Henlopen, DE for winter coastal birding. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Meet at the Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 AM or the OC inlet parking lot at 8:30 AM. Leader is TBA, in the meantime, for information, contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

Sunday, January 7

COVERED DISH DINNER AND LECTURE. **Baltimore.** Tonight's speaker is *Joe Hanfman* and the topic is "Birding Alaska." To reserve a place and tell us what you will bring, please use the website PerfectPotluck.com—detailed instructions will be sent out in December. 4:30 PM. Vollmer Center at Cylburn. For information, contact coordinator Kevin Graff at keyweststyle2001@gmail.com, or call Peter Lev at 410-823-2962.

Tuesday, January 9

BOARD MEETING. **Baltimore.** While only authorized Board members have a vote, any Club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. Call any club officer or board member for details. 7 PM. Held at the Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom.

MEETING. **Patuxent/PGAS.** "Birding the Galapagos", presented by *Claudia Ferguson*. Join us to hear PGAS's own Claudia Ferguson speak about her adventures birding in the Galapagos Islands. To visit the Galapagos Islands was her wish for a long time and finally during September 2016, she had the opportunity to spend five days birding in several of the islands. She will share her photos and stories from her trip. Free and open to the public. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time. College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 2nd Fl, 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park.

Thursday, January 11

MEETING. **Howard.** "Bird Sex and Breeding," by *Murray R. Bakst*. This talk will cover the biology of avian reproduction based on his career of nearly forty years at the USDA's Beltsville Agricultural Research Service. As wild bird populations decline, genetic diversity is threatened. Artificial insemination technologies used by the poultry industry are being utilized in the breeding of endangered and other captive populations. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Ctr, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Friday, January 12

MEETING. **Harford.** Program TBA. General meeting at 7:15 PM, presentation at 8 PM. Churchville Presbyterian Church, 2844 Churchville Rd.

Saturday, January 13

■ **Baltimore.** Harbor Duck Trip - Masonville Cove to Fort McHenry. After checking the water from Masonville Cove, we will work our way around the harbor, stopping at the Medstar Harbor Hospital parking lot and then Middle Branch Park before finishing up at Fort McHenry about noon. This trip offers a good selection of the wintering waterfowl that stay in the area, including a nice variety of ducks, grebes and the occasional loon. Bald Eagles are often seen, and rarities turn up regularly. 9 AM (half day). Meet at the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center, 1000 Frankfurst Ave. Leader John Robinson, 443-810-9059 (cell), 410-483-6620 (home), or jcrobin@jhmi.edu.

■ **Carroll.** Ocean City Day Trip. Gluttons for punishment will enjoy this one. We will also probably see a lot of really good birds. All day. Meet at the P&R on Rt 32 just south of Rt 26 in Eldersburg. Contact Bob Ringler, 410-303-2792.

■ **Cecil.** Ocean City Area & Beyond. A classic trip to THE prime Maryland winter birding hotspot. The Ocean City inlet hosts an unequaled variety of wintering ducks, possibly including all 3 scoters, Long-tailed, Harlequin, mergansers, and maybe even an eider or two. Add to that Red-throated and Common Loons, a grebe or two, Great Cormorant, Northern Gannet, Purple Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, and possibilities of rare gulls or a Razorbill or Murre. Over at the 4th St mudflats, there could be some lingering shorebirds, and Brant should be about. The ponds in the vicinity should hold an assortment of Canvasback, Redhead, Wigeon, Gadwall, Bufflehead, Ruddy, Teal, Shoveler - a great chance for good views to study the plumages at the time of year when their colors are brightest. Depending on locations visited, there could also be good opportunities for wintering sparrows - maybe even a rarity like LeConte's or Snowy Owl. Bring breakfast, lunch and snack, or money to buy take-out food on the way. Dress for extreme cold and wind. Bring scope if you have one. Easy walking on level ground. 6 AM (full day). Meet near Dunkin' Donuts in Big Elk Mall, intersection of Rt 40 and Rt 213 in Elkton. Leader Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com.

■ **Howard.** Blackwater NWR. Plan to stop at the Choptank River Bridge for ducks and coffee.

Bring lunch and drinks. Dress warmly. Entrance fee or Duck Stamp required. Email the leader to reserve a spot and get details. We will carpool. Facilities at some spots. Accessible. Leader Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net or 410-461-1643.

Sunday, January 14

■ **Anne Arundel.** Quiet Waters Park. David Gillum will lead this monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat, and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. \$6 per car Park entry fee. 8-11 AM. Meet at Blue Heron Center. Contact David Gillum, 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

■ **Baltimore.** Loch Raven Point and Dams. Trip for winter waterfowl and other birds. Telescopes useful for distant waterfowl. 8:45 AM (half day). Meet at Morgan Mill Rd parking area just before Loch Raven Dr. Leader Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net.

■ **Baltimore.** Marshy Point Nature Center. Trip for winter waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM (half day). Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

MID-WINTER COUNT. Frederick. Meet at the Fred Archibald Sanctuary at 6:30 AM, and be ready to cover 140 acres. Don't forget waterproof boots. Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082.

Wednesday, January 17

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership: A United Voice for Maryland's Birds" with *Chris Eberly*. Chris will present how the Partnership is working and how you can become involved in conserving Maryland's birds. 7-9 PM. Harvest Hall, Kinder Farm Park. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Montgomery.** *Jim Brighton* on "Maryland's Biodiversity Project". Jim and Bill Hubick have been working, with lots of help from others, to catalog all living things in Maryland. This will be an update as to his progress. Doors open at 7 PM, refreshments 7:30 and meeting

starts at 8. Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd.

Thursday, January 18

MEETING. **Caroline.** Program TBA. 7:30 PM. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

■ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, January 20

■ **Anne Arundel.** Thomas Point and Annapolis Neck. We will carpool to Hillsmere first to check along South River Bay Front for water birds. From there directly to Thomas Point Park as the gate should be open between 8 and 9 AM. Next we will do the neighborhoods of Arundel on the Bay and Oyster Harbor. Continuing from there into Bay Ridge to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to walk the short trail back into Black Walnut Cove. From there back around the entire Bay Ridge peninsula for great views of the Bay, the Bridge and Severn River. A great location for Long-tail Ducks. 7:45 AM (half day). Meet at Giant Shopping Center on Bay Ridge Rd, near Wells Fargo Bank on the side by Georgetown Rd. Contact Judy Brennan, 410-991-2412 or el.judith@gmail.com.

■ **Baltimore.** Saturday Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Canceled in bad weather. 8 AM (half day). Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Ben Poscover, 410-882-1309.

■ **Baltimore.** Druid Hill Park. Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. 8-9:30 AM. Meet at 3001 East Dr. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com.

MID-WINTER COUNT. Carroll. Parties of counters will set their own schedules in their pre-arranged areas to count winter bird species throughout the County. Contact Don Jewell to verify your bird

counting area (jewelldg@gmail.com or 410-259-4716). Tally Rally will be hosted by Amy Hoffman at her home. RSVP to Amy (410-549-3598) no later than Wednesday, January 17 and plan on bringing a food item or cash donation (\$5).

Frederick. Audubon Society of Central MD Nature Walk. 9-11 AM. Audrey Carroll Sanctuary, 13030 Old Annapolis Rd, Mt Airy. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071.

Harford. Bradenbaugh Flats. Dennis Kirkwood leads us on a pleasant tour through NW Harford County's agricultural area to find wintering field birds and waterfowl. Expect Horned Larks, Longspurs and Snow Buntings, Ring-necked Ducks, and maybe a Cackling Goose. The trip ends at the leader's house where you can enjoy hot soup, homemade breads, good conversation and maybe even a brief glimpse of the resident screech owl. 8 AM. Meet at the Jarrettsville Elementary School parking lot. Contact Dennis at newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905.

Howard. Alpha Ridge Landfill. Moderate walking over hills and fields of the landfill. We will search for Short-eared Owls with no guarantee of finding one. Other possibilities are Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Horned Lark, American Pipit, and Eastern Meadowlark. If we finish early, we may go to Mount Pleasant and look for wintering sparrows. Facilities at Alpha Ridge Park. Limited to a maximum of five cars. Reservations required. Carpooling is required. Half day. Contact Joe Hanfman for reservations, auk1844@gmail.com or 410-772-8424.

Kent. Ocean City. Our annual search for winter specialties including gannet, sea ducks, alcids, gulls, Purple Sandpipers, and wintering songbirds. Full day. Dress warmly, bring lunch and warm beverages. Meet at 8 AM at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

Patuxent/PGAS. Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. No reservations needed.

For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, January 21

Montgomery. Black Hill RP. All birders, but especially new birders, are welcome on this trip, which will focus on the identification of ducks at this premier county spot for winter waterfowl. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Visitors Center. For reservations (which are required) and more information, contact leader Gerry Hawkins, maineusa@comcast.net or 571-277-8406.

Monday, January 22

MEETING. Tri-county. "Besides your Binoculars & Bird Book: A Look at the Resources of Today's Birder" presented by *Mike Hillman*, Chincoteague Bay Field Station. 7 PM. MAC Education Ctr, off Snow Hill Rd, Salisbury. Contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net, for more info.

Tuesday, January 23

POTLUCK DINNER AND MEETING. Washington. Enjoy a potluck dinner starting at 6 PM, followed by the film "Watching Warblers" at 7. Bring your own place setting, drink, and a dish to share. Mt. Aetna Nature Center, 21905 Mt. Aetna Road, Hagerstown. Call 301-797-8454 with any questions.

Saturday, January 27

Baltimore. Patterson Park. Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in SE Baltimore. With more than 205 species on record, the park is full of surprises. 8-9:30 AM. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of E Lombard St and S Patterson Park Ave. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org.

MID-WINTER COUNT. Frederick. This is the last, but not the least, of our winter counts! The reward afterwards is the enjoyable tally-rally at David and Carol's house. Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082.

MID-WINTER COUNT. Harford. Compiler TBA. Details and contact information will be publicized by email, social media and on the website prior to the event.

MID-WINTER COUNT. **Howard.** Compiler Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com or 410-772-8424.

Sunday, January 28

MID-WINTER COUNT. **Kent.** Join the field crew or count in your neighborhood, anywhere in Kent County. Contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com for more information.

Montgomery. Winter Waterfowl Search. Search of Montgomery County waterways for ducks, grebes, and mergansers. Based on the unpredictability of winter weather conditions, the leader will decide on the meeting place a few weeks before the trip and use recent bird reports to decide best locations to visit. Bring a scope if you have one. Reservations required. Half day. For reservations and more info, contact leader Andy Martin, martinap2@verizon.net or 301-529-2066.

Thursday, February 1

MEETING. **Frederick.** Bonnie Ott, an expert on "Sparrows," will help us ID and appreciate those Little Brown Jobs. 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd, Frederick.

Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, February 2 – Sunday, February 4

MOS CONVENTION. Ocean City. Join fellow birders from around the state for a full weekend of talks, field trips and social interaction. Check the MOS webpage for further information: <http://www.mdbirds.org/activities/conference/annual.html>.

Saturday, February 3

Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. The park has a lot of trails and diverse habitat with fields and wooded areas to explore. Alan produced a checklist of the birds of the Park and walks and explores this area regularly. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at Kinder Farm Park. Take the first left before the gatehouse (free entry). Meet at the last parking lot up the hill. Contact leaders Alan

and Susan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

Harford. Eagle Watch at Conowingo Dam. Bring your camera for a chance at many excellent shots of a large number of Bald Eagles, various gulls, waterfowl, and shore birds. 9 AM. Meet at Fisherman's Park just below the Dam on the Harford County side of the Susquehanna. Leaders Colleen Webster, cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577, and Sue Procell, procell1@comcast.net or 443-417-4919.

Patuxent/PGAS. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at E end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, February 4

Montgomery. Oaks Landfill, Laytonsville. Bundle up for a LATE AFTERNOON search for wintering sparrows and raptors, including possible Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls, at this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Mostly open terrain with some ponds, which we will check if not frozen over. Leader will have scope for distant birds. We have special permission to enter this "closed to the public" landfill so reservations are essential. Limit 20. 3:30 PM. Meet on landfill entrance drive at 6001 Rt 108, Laytonsville. Contact the leader for reservations and more information. Leader Mark England, 240-375-4500 or markengland@canamcontractors.com.

Wednesday, February 7

Baltimore. First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry. Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescope can be useful. Can be held in bad weather. 8 AM. Meet outside the park front gates and park in lot on left hand side. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Mom's Big Year" by Nancy McAllister. Meeting begins at 7 PM with a brief period for socializing, followed by the guest lecturer. Afterwards, there will be a short business meeting. Carroll Nonprofit Center, 255 Clifton Blvd, Westminster. Contact Don Jewell, jewelldg@gmail.com.

■ **Howard.** Lake Elkhorn. Easy walking along the lake and to Forbay Pond. Waterfowl, sparrows and winter finches are possible. The lake can turn up interesting surprises. No facilities. Accessible. 8 AM, 2-3 hrs. Meet at Dockside Parking lot. Leader Allen Lewis, allenrlewis@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 8

MEETING. **Howard.** "Common Sparrows of Central Maryland," by *Bonnie Ott*. Learn how to identify common sparrow species of the Maryland Piedmont. Bonnie will explain habitat preferences and seasonal movement. She will give tips on how to tell similar species apart by behavior. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Ctr, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Saturday, February 10

■ **Baltimore.** Loch Raven Point and Loch Raven Dam. Morning trip to see ducks, grebes, coots and other water birds. Scopes useful. Trip canceled in snow, rain, or slippery conditions. 8:45 AM. Meet at the Morgan Mill Rd parking area just before Loch Raven Dr. Leaders Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net, and Peter Lev, 410-823-2962 or plev@comcast.net.

■ **Tri-county.** Dorchester County, for waterfowl, raptors, other winter residents. Bring lunch and snacks. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Royal Farms on Rt 50 west of Salisbury. For more information, contact trip leader Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net.

Sunday, February 11

■ **Anne Arundel.** Quiet Waters Park. David Gillum will lead this monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat, and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. \$6 per car Park entry fee. 8-11 AM. Meet at Blue Heron Center. Contact David Gillum, 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

■ **Baltimore.** Marshy Point Nature Center. Trip for winter waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM (half day). Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

■ **Howard.** Blandair Park North. Walk the trails along scrubland and woods. Sometimes non-winter birds over-winter here. No facilities, boots recommended. 8 AM, 2-3 hrs. Meet at the south end of Summer Hollow Ln, Columbia. Leader Anthony VanSchoor, tonyvanschoor@gmail.com.

Tuesday, February 13

BOARD MEETING. **Baltimore.** While only authorized Board members have a vote, any Club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. Call any club officer or board member for details. 7 PM. Held at the Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom.

MEETING. **Patuxent/PGAS.** "What a wonderful bird is the pelican ... The expansion of Brown Pelicans into the Chesapeake Bay region", presented by *Dave Brinker*. During the mid-1900s, Brown Pelicans seriously declined along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States and were eventually listed as a threatened species. Historically, pelicans had never been recorded as a nesting species in Maryland or anywhere to the north. As pelican populations were recovering from the impacts of DDT, Dave discovered Maryland's first Brown Pelican nesting in 1987. Since wandering into the Middle Atlantic States, Brown Pelican populations have increased dramatically. The remarkable expansion of local Brown Pelicans in the region will be described. Come learn how adults feed tiny chicks, and where Maryland nesting pelicans spend their winters, along with other snippets of the natural history of this facilitating water bird. Free and open to the public. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time. College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 2nd Fl, 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park.

Thursday, February 15

MEETING. **Caroline.** Steve Westre will present "Overview of Caroline County's Christmas Counts 1950 to the present". 7:30 PM. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

■ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, February 16 – Monday, February 19

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. Count one day or all four! gbbc.birdcount.org/

Saturday, February 17–Monday, February 19

■ Frederick. Eastern Shore weekend. A casual and fun trip to visit some of the best birding spots on the East coast. Contact leader Tom Humphrey for details, 240-793-2508.

Saturday, February 17

■ Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescope can be useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM (half day). Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Ben Poscover, 410-882-1309.

■ Baltimore. Druid Hill Park. Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. 8-9:30 AM. Meet at 3001 East Dr. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or <http://baltimore@audubon.com>.

■ Frederick. Audubon Society of Central MD Nature Walk. 9-11 AM. Fred Archibald Sanctuary, 6011 Boyers Mill Rd, New Market. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071.

■ Howard. Lake Kittamaqundi. Easy walking around the newly paved path. Waterfowl, gulls and sparrows expected. Facilities available. Accessible. 8 AM. 2-3 hrs. Meet in the top side lakefront fountain near Whole Foods off Little Patuxent Pkwy. Leader Clayton Koonce, cg.koonce@verizon.net.

■ Kent. Blackwater NWR. Prime waterfowl and eagle country; pelicans and other surprises? Dress warmly & bring lunch. 8 AM (full day). Meet at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural

Area parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. No reservations needed. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ Washington. Black Hill Regional Park. 9 AM (half day). 9 AM. Leave from the Rt 66 P&R. Call Doris Berger at 301-739-8907 to participate.

WINTER COUNT. YMOS. Dorchester County. 8 AM Meet at the Sailwinds Center immediately across the Choptank River Bridge in Cambridge. We'll spend time looking at the large array of ducks, before heading south to Blackwater NWR and Shorter's Wharf to look for Short-eared Owls and the Rough-legged Hawk. Bring a lunch and money for dinner and plenty of warm clothing. Email George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com) of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip.

Sunday, February 18

■ Cecil. Fair Hill NRMA. Fair Hill is one of Cecil County's loveliest birding spots. A variety of habitats, including woods, fields and wetlands, means that we will see a number of different winter residents. Portions of the trail may be muddy or icy, so boots are recommended. Dress for extreme cold and wind. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Foxcatcher Farm Covered Bridge parking lot near the Nature Center on Tawes Dr. There is an honor system daily fee (\$3 Maryland residents; \$4 out-of-state visitors). Birders age 62 and older are eligible for a Golden Age Pass. Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

Wednesday, February 21

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Youth Birding in Maryland", presented by YMOS members from AABC. Winning repeated top honors at the annual World Series of Birding, Maryland youth birders have made a name for themselves and a significant impact on the State birding world. YMOS is open to kids elementary through high school ages, and represents all areas of Maryland. This presentation highlights the many facets of the YMOS program: their numerous and varied trips and competitions, and their research and conservation initiatives. The program is illustrated with the students' spectacular photography and art work. Come and show your support for YMOS, and bring a youngster! 7-9 PM. Harvest Hall, Kinder Farm Park. Contact

Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or
barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 24

■ Baltimore. Patuxent River NAS. Half-day trip to a restricted Naval base for winter delights. Guaranteed to get lots of Horned Larks, Savannah Sparrows, Wilson's Snipe and a variety of waterfowl. Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, Short-eared Owl, and Peregrine Falcon are possible. Limit 10 people, by reservation only. Optional lunch at a waterfront restaurant on way home. The trip is open only to US citizens and all attendees must possess a photo ID. Meet at Nursery Rd/Hammonds Ferry Rd P&R at 6 AM sharp or at the visitor center parking lot outside of NAS Gate #1 (northernmost gate) at 8. It's on the right, about 100-200 yards after you turn left off SR 235. Email leader Kyle Rambo, kyle.rambo@navy.mil, to make reservations. Email Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com, for carpooling or directions to the site.

■ Baltimore. Patterson Park. Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in SE Baltimore. With more than 205 species on record, the park is full of surprises. 8-9:30 AM. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of E Lombard St and S Patterson Park Ave. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com.

■ Carroll. Black Hills Regional Park, Montgomery Co. Join Bob Ringler to scope out the waterfowl here. Meet at the P&R on Rt 32 just S of Rt 26 in Eldersburg. Contact Bob at 410-303-2792.

■ Cecil. Gulls at North East Community Park. Whether you think gulls are gorgeous or hopelessly confusing, do we have a location for you! Join local gull expert Sean McCandless for a session of gull watching and identification. With numbers ranging from the hundreds to a couple of thousand, you might spot a rare Iceland or Lesser Black-backed Gull among the crowd. You never know what will show up! 9:30 AM (two hours). Meet in the park's parking lot. Leader Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Ponds of Prince George's County for Wintering Waterfowl. Join leader Fred Fallon in a pot-luck potpourri to see what the ponds of Prince George's County might hold. A special target bird will be the PBC logo bird, Hooded Merganser. Exact locations to be visited will depend on current reports. Bring snacks and drinks. 8 AM. Meet at the Bowie P&R (3/4 day). Contact Fred Fallon, fwfallon@ymail.com, for more information.

Sunday, February 25

■ Harford. Loch Raven. A leisurely walk to enjoy the rich habitat of Baltimore's premier watershed for wintering migrant songbirds, waterfowl and raptors. 7:30 AM. Meet at the P&R on Rt 152 just north of Rt 147 near Fallston. Leader Dave Larkin, larkin3001@comcast.net or 410-569-8319.

Monday, February 26

MEETING. **Tri-county.** "The Northern Bobwhite in Maryland" presented by *Bob Long*, MD DNR Wildlife and Heritage Service. 7 PM. MAC Education Center, off Snow Hill Rd, Salisbury. Contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net, for more info.

Tuesday, February 27

MEETING. **Washington.** "Monarch Migration" with *Sandy Sagalkin* from the Monarch Alliance. 7 PM. Mt. Aetna Nature Center, 21905 Mt. Aetna Road, Hagerstown. Call 301-797-8454 for details.

Thursday, March 1

MEETING. **Frederick.** Renowned Smithsonian ornithologist *Carla Dove* will explain the role of feather forensics in aviation safety in "When Birds Collide." 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd, Frederick.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, March 2

DINNER/MEETING. **Harford.** Speaker/topic TBA. Dinner at 6:15 PM, general meeting at 7:15 PM, presentation at 8 PM. Churchville Presbyterian Church, 2844 Churchville Rd.

POSTMASTER: TIME-DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE EXPEDITE!

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Anyone is welcome to contribute articles, photos,
or ideas that would be of interest to other
birders.

Copy may be e-mailed to Richard Donham by
January 25, 2017 for the Mar/April 2018 issue.

Illustrations pp. 1,9 ©M. Suzanne Probst

**MOS Chapter Web Sites (to be consulted for
the most up-to-date trip/meeting info)**

Allegany/Garrett: westernmdbirding.com/
Anne Arundel: aabirdclub.org/
Baltimore baltimorebirdclub.org/
Caroline: carolinebirdclubmos.blogspot.com/
Carroll: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/carroll.html
Cecil: cecilbirds.org/
Frederick: frederickbirdclub.org/
Harford: harfordbirdclub.org/
Howard: howardbirds.org/
Kent: kentcounty.com/recreation/birding/birding-club
Montgomery: montgomerybirdclub.org/
Patuxent/PG: patuxentbirdclub.org/
Talbot: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/talbot.html
Tri-County (Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset):
tricountybirdclub.weebly.com/
Washington: washingtoncountybirdclub.webs.com/
YMOS: ymos.org/

The Maryland Yellowthroat



MARCH/APRIL 2018

VOL. 38, NO 2

President's Corner

Barbara Johnson

 Writing on State of the Union Day, I give you the "State of the Society", or, as I see it, the MOS highlight reel of 2017 and some glimpses into 2018.

January saw the first MOS retreat in a number of years, with over 50 members gathering to troubleshoot and brainstorm around organizational issues. From the meeting emerged efforts (a few detailed here) to heighten communication with the chapters regarding the workings of the Society.

Treasurer Dave Webb subsequently visited most chapters with his "MOS Financial Roadshow", a delightfully entertaining clarification of MOS's expenditures and endowment, and financial future.

To increase awareness about MOS sanctuaries, Marcia Watson delivered on a promise to create a Powerpoint program, "From Mountains to Saltmarsh; Rediscovering the MOS Sanctuaries". If you haven't been treated to Marcia's marvelous presentation at your chapter, view it and other great sanctuary videos on the new Youtube channel, "MOS Sanctuaries".

Several MOS chapters have appointed a chapter "ambassador" to the MOS Facebook page (now with over 800 followers), with the intent to share statewide activities, concerns and accomplishments to the wider MOS audience and beyond.

A follow-up meeting will build on the retreat's momentum this coming summer-- please watch for that announcement, and join us!

On the first day of Spring 2017 we said goodbye to our esteemed member and world-renowned ornithologist Chandler Robbins. An enormous

gathering of friends, family and colleagues celebrated Chan's life at the National Wildlife Visitor Center. MOS learned that day that Chan and his late wife, Eleanor planned to leave a pristine property in Garrett County to the Society. It is now included as MOS's tenth sanctuary.

Chan also left his extensive library to MOS. Colin Rees (with help from Chan's and Eleanor's children, David Bridge and others) established the "Chan Robbins Library and Research Center at Plummer House", at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, with an opening ceremony to be on April 7th.

YMOS continues to inspire and mentor our young birders. 23 students participated in the World Series of Birding in New Jersey last May 6. YMOS high school teams placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in their division, and the middle school teams, with mostly beginners, placed 2nd and 3rd. YMOS leader George Radcliffe reported: "Even more impressive than the scores was the exemplary behavior exhibited by all as teams worked beautifully together and shared scouting information with all." Joshua Heiser (the same YMOS member who in October discovered Maryland's first Shiny Cowbird in his Bethesda backyard!) wrote a gripping account of his winning team's day for *The Maryland Yellowthroat*, Sept/Oct 2017.

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The online Maryland/D.C. Birding Guide was handed off to Marcia Watson by Joan Cwi (honored at the 2018 MOS Convention for her work in developing the site). Search mdbirdingguide.com to find comprehensive info on birding hotspots throughout the state.

The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership sought and received its second \$25 K matching grant from MOS, enabling it to continue concentrating the work of many organizations dedicated to bird preservation. MBCP's Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring project recorded activity on 71 nests in 2017, and with new observer training sessions happening around the state, will add many more this year.

Dominic Nucifora, the new Sanctuary Committee Chair, oversaw the acquisition of a 30-acre inholding at the MOS Irish Grove Sanctuary, funded in part with a generous bequest by Chan and Eleanor Robbins. A record crowd celebrated the purchase at the Irish Grove work weekend in November. The "Chandler and Eleanor Robbins Tract at Irish Grove" will be officially dedicated at the April 6-8 work weekend. If you've not been to Irish Grove, come join the fun!

The MOS Conservation Committee partnered with Safe Skies Maryland, an initiative to raise awareness throughout Maryland about the threats of bird collisions with man-made structures. Watch for news of the proposed Maryland Bird-safe Building Act. Conservation Chair Kurt Schwarz's work -- too voluminous to fully address here-- included Kurt organizing members of MOS and other groups to visit and discuss bird threats with the staff of Senator Ben Cardin in D.C.

Just this week, Tom Strikwerda, Chair of the New Website Committee, signed a contract with a website developer. Your new site will be attractive and easy to navigate, and will feature abilities to join, renew your membership, and register for events online. Its design will adapt to any screen.

As of year's end, the MOS membership list numbers over 1,800. I encourage each of you to make the most of that membership! Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you good birding this Spring!!

MOS Work Weekend at Irish Grove

Saturday-Sunday, April 7th-8th

Join us in beautiful Somerset County for a weekend full of projects, camaraderie and birding at Irish Grove MOS Sanctuary. You can stay for free at the house or pitch your tent in the yard. Indoor space is limited. If you plan to attend or have questions, please contact Dotty Mumford via email (dottymum@comcast.net) or phone (443-214-5154). To see video of last spring's work weekend, search for MOS Sanctuaries on YouTube. See you there!

Dominic Nucifora
Sanctuary Chair

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YMOS Birdathon: Redux, Again! March 17-18, 2018

A cadre of young birders in the Youth Program of the Maryland Ornithological Society (YMOS) is gearing up yet again to haunt the shorelines, marshes, woods and fields of the Eastern Shore in quest of at least 100 bird species. The annual YMOS Birdathon is the principal fund-raiser to underwrite expenses for participation in the World Series of Birding in May. Additionally, funds are used to update the group's optics. The youth invite you to help by pledging \$0.25, \$0.50, or \$1.00 per species seen over their two days in the field.

March weather can bring rain, fog and wind to an already unpredictable range of temperatures. Many wintering waterfowl may have departed while most migrant songbirds have yet to arrive. The youngsters add to these challenges by compiling an advance list of 100 "Must-See" species. Their final results require that they see two additional species to make up for any Must-See miss. Further, 90% of the participants must see or hear each species identified. Overcoming all these challenges requires planning and decision-making coupled with a high level of collaboration and sharing that is an YMOS hallmark.

As many as five YMOS teams will represent the MOS at the World Series of Birding in 2018. Last May, the YMOS Marsh Gigglers topped all youth teams in the competition with a whopping total of 201 species found in 24 hours and were beaten by only 1 adult team. Our Carbon Free Youth Team also won their category with a total of 127 species found using only bicycle and foot power, beating last year's winning team by 23 species. Our high school teams placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in their division, and the middle school teams, with

mostly beginners, placed 2nd and 3rd. Stunning accomplishments!

You can pledge any time prior to the Birdathon by emailing George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com) or Wayne Bell (wbell2@washcoll.edu). Those who pledge will receive an advance copy of the Must-See list. After the Birdathon, you will receive a report of all species identified and the amount you owe based on the net species seen after any penalty deductions for Must-See misses.

Thank you in advance for your encouragement of this remarkable group of youngsters and, of course, their parents who rise early and drive long hours in support.

--George Radcliffe and Wayne Bell



Recent Conservation Committee Activities (Fall 2017). Kurt Schwarz, Chair

In September we formed a new subcommittee, Safe Skies Maryland, to deal with window strikes. Beth Decker is the chair of the subcommittee. Safe Skies is actively pursuing education efforts, partnering with state agencies, and a possible bill for the upcoming legislative session.

We wrote Maryland's US Senators about a troubling section in SB 1514, "HELP for Wildlife Act". It would remove sport fishing tackle from regulation under the 1976 Toxic Substance Control Act. Effectively, it would allow manufacturers to use lead, or any toxic substances in equipment sold to fishermen.

Shortly thereafter, we wrote to the Mayor and City Council of Ocean City about feral cats being fed in Sunset Park. The cats had been photo'd preying on songbirds, with one dramatic photo of a still living Common Yellowthroat clenched in the jaws of a gray house cat. We pointed out the economic impact of birding in Ocean City, especially in the off-season, and the value of Sunset Park as a migrant trap. The cats have since been removed.

In another action, the Committee filed a protest with the National Park Service over proposed dramatic increases in user fees at 17 popular National Parks during the summer. We pointed out that Congress should address the short fall in funding, and that the NPS should not price the poor out of using National Parks.

In a letter, we praised Maryland DNR for a well-done Vision Plan for Idylwild Wildlife Management Area. Their plan, if implemented, promotes biodiversity, fostering habitat for Bobwhite and Woodcock, and also early successional habitat, a potential boon for Blue-winged Warbler.



HARFORD COUNTY

Pining for Puffins

Loveable. Pinch-their-cheeks loveable. Who wouldn't want to photograph these cute, comical, and colorful critters with their toucan-like orange bills? Since I first learned about these birds, I've wanted to photograph them but the problem was finding them and then getting close enough. These pelagic seabirds dwell on the ocean for most of the year, only coming in to breed on typically hard-to-reach islands in spring and summer. This past summer I stumbled upon one of the few places in our country where you can see them from dry land: Cannon Beach, Oregon. Otherwise you typically have to endure a rough boat ride off Maine's coast or venture to Scotland, Newfoundland, Iceland (where half the world's puffins reportedly live), Alaska, or elsewhere. And even if you don't adore puffins, Cannon Beach is worth the trip. It boasts broad sand beaches with picturesque sea stacks; tidal pools alive with red and green anemones that look like critters in

a sci-fi movie, purple and orange starfish; and a relaxed Northwest vibe with matching architecture.

The first time I visited Cannon Beach several years ago, I thought it was pretty, but all I remembered was an upscale beach town with giant dead rocks offshore. How could I have been so blind? But my eyes were opened when I joined a free tidal pool walk by Cannon Beach's "Haystack Rock Awareness Program." Haystack Rock is that "giant dead rock" I ignored before. But it's the *antithesis* of dead. It's teaming with nesting gulls, penguin-like common murres, three types of cormorants, Black Oystercatchers, and Tufted Puffins (versus Maine's Atlantic Puffins).

If you want to see them, hit the beach from April to July at the lowest possible tide so you can stroll alongside Haystack Rock. Even though I abhor getting up early, I gleefully jumped out of bed three days in a row to experience its wonders. I was mesmerized watching the puffins for hours as they took off from near the top of the 235-foot Haystack Rock and flew back to feed their babies. Unfortunately, you can't see the baby pufflings because they're tucked away in their den-like nests and they supposedly fledge the rock at night in August. Even the adults were a bit far for a 600-mm lens. But it was wonderful eyeballing them with my naked eyes, binoculars, and camera. After my puffin beach adventure, I wandered down the Pacific coast to Newport's must-see Oregon Coast Aquarium. I got my fix photographing them up close for several hours. And if I didn't know better, I'd swear that a few of them put on a show *just* for me. *Barbara J. Saffir*



Tufted Puffin photo by Barbara J Saffir



Photo of the Haystack Rock

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Gail Mackiernan and Barry Cooper write that they spent much of December on a cruise from Los Angles to San Antonio, Chile, primarily targeting seabirds off the west coast of Central and South America. "While others aboard the Emerald Princess enjoyed the pool, spa, casino, dining and entertainment, we were scanning the ocean for such goodies as Waved Albatross, Hornby's Storm-petrel, and Red-billed Tropicbird. All of these, and much more, were seen on the 19-day voyage – all in all, over 25 species of "tube-nose", as well as boobies, tropicbirds, frigatebirds, jaegers, gulls, terns, and even penguins! The various port stops also brought us opportunities for land-birding, starting in California – a nice view of California Gnatcatcher – while en route enjoying Los Cabos' endemic Gray Thrasher, a lively Streaked Antpitta in Costa Rica, the strange Peruvian Thick-knee near Lima, and on the last day, Andean Condor and the enigmatic Diademed Sandpiper-plover in the mountains above Santiago. Getting back home two days before Christmas was a bit stressful, but it was all worth it!" *Chris Wright*



Photo of Diademed Sandpiper-plover by Gail Mackiernan

TALBOT COUNTY

Life member, Talbot Bird Club, *George Armistead*, was keynote speaker at the Morro Bay (California) Winter Birding Festival in January. George is President of Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (Philadelphia), the second oldest U.S. bird club, after the Nuttall Ornithological Club. The company he works for, Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures, recently secured with two million dollars a ship for two tours to Antarctica, of which he will be the principal leader, in 2019 and 2020. The only passengers will be Rockjumper clients. *Harry Armistead.*

TRI-COUNTY

Doug and Sally Ruby spent their first year in retirement doing a Big Year. With a combination of independent travel, a few professionally led trips and strategic visits to birding festivals, they ended the year with 609 ABA species plus 9 other species! Doug estimates 182 days of the year looking for birds away from home since they visited 26 states and 2 Canadian provinces. Pelagic trips out of Hatteras NC and Monterey CA were distinct adventures in themselves. The year added 39 lifers to Doug's list. We started the year in our own backyard and local birding and finished it with a second but successful effort for the Harris' Sparrow in Prince George's county. *Doug and Sally Ruby*

Bob and Marcia Balestri embarked on a round-trip, 15-day cruise from Los Angeles to 4 islands in Hawaii and Ensenada, Mexico. When Marcia first booked the cruise, ABA had not yet announced that Hawaii would be included on the ABA list, so it was a wonderful surprise to discover that almost all the birds she saw on the islands would go to her ABA count. And best of all, she added 2 birds to her life list: Cook's Petrel and Chestnut Munia. Marcia's main goal for this trip was to see lava flowing in person, which she missed out on during her last trip to Hawaii. It was shocking that as a geologist, she had never witnessed molten lava in real time. Fortunately for her, Kilauea and the helicopter pilot cooperated, and she was able to see this amazing phenomenon (well, for a geologist, it's amazing). She also added 12 birds to her Mexico list at the last port of Ensenada. The trip was a great success for Bob as well. He took thousands of beautiful photos, some of which he has already sold. *Marcia Balestri*

A group of watercolor paintings of Delmarva's Shorebirds by *Ellen Lawler* will be on display at the Wicomico Library, downtown branch, during the month of March. The display includes paintings that show the diversity of shorebird species found on the Eastern Shore throughout the year and some show plumage differences in certain species (Dunlin and American avocet). Life history facts about the species depicted are included on the labels and information about the Tri-County Bird Club accompanies the display. *Ellen Lawler*



Beyond Birding: Dragonflies: Creatures of the Sunlight

By Colin Rees, Anne Arundel

Dragonflies have begun to emerge only to suffer a short life. After a year underwater as nymphs, they have only a few weeks as an adult to mate and lay eggs. Until research by Don Williamson, we understood the nymph and airborne adult were progressive stages in the metamorphosis of an insect that has a common ancestor and is one animal. His controversial work proposes that the two forms are two different animals.

Williamson contends that under his larval transfer hypothesis, one or more ancestors of the damselflies acquired larvae by hybridizing with thysanurans (aka three-pronged bristletails) -- small wingless insects moving like fish, with small compound eyes, long antennae, 10-segmented abdomens and three tail-like structures. The mouthparts are partly retractable, with simple chewing mandibles and long maxillary palps. They are best known as silverfish, scurrying away from the kitchen light to dark damp places.

Williamson suggests that the hybrids evolved into a nymph with a bristletail but with larger eyes, an expandable jaw to seize water fleas and mosquito larvae and bristles that have become gills. The nymph molts its exoskeleton many times before the final molt climbs out of the water to split open and emerge as an adult damselfly. He notes that there is less difference between animals that he proposes to have hybridized than between other insects such as beetles and butterflies and their grub or caterpillar larvae; thus, pupation and the start-again metamorphosis were unnecessary.

The organs and tissues of butterfly and moth caterpillars break down in the pupal stage and are replaced by a soup of stem cells and 'imaginal discs'. Such discs form during the last caterpillar stage, the cuticle, legs, wings and nerves of the imago (adult) developing from them. Other adult organs, including the heart, gut and digestive gland, grow from stem cells in the pupal soup and no part of the larva becomes a part of the adult. The developing animal dismantles the larva then starts again to produce the adult, and Williamson questions whether this complex procedure could have evolved by a series of small changes, each subject to natural selection. In contrast, dragonflies and damselflies manage the transition from larva to adult without hybridization

Williamson's hypothesis has drawn heated debate with those rebutting calling for laboratory hybridization studies to provide evidence of ancestral hybridogenesis.

Whatever the final outcome of these studies, I watch an adult common whitetail wriggle from its own skin, rest on the leaf of a cattail and pump haemolymph into its limp wings which slowly expand by its sides. Over the next few hours or days, depending upon the temperature, its exoskeleton hardens and it will fly off in search of flies, mosquitoes, and other small insects. Its colors will become more vivid in a matter of days.



Book Review: Arthur Singer: The Wildlife Art of an American Master by Paul Singer and Alan Singer. RIT Press 2017

By Ikumi Kayama, Patuxent Bird Club

Some artwork seems to enter our stream of consciousness so easily and smoothly that it can be taken for granted, the beautiful artwork blending seamlessly with the text and accompanying maps and sonograms. It's hard to imagine a world without the Golden Guide and books featuring lively illustrations of birds, range maps, silhouettes, and sonograms. It had to start somewhere by someone, and the key player in the history of field guides and commercial natural history illustration is Arthur Singer.

This book, a combination of biography, art history, and art prints, is the first publication of the life of Arthur Singer. In addition to featuring the famous works by Arthur Singer, the book also features less well-known and unpublished art. The book celebrates his life and the artists he worked with or influenced, including David Sibley, and weaves stories of contributions Singer made to bird painting, wildlife art, and birding.

The authors, Paul Singer and Alan Singer, are both accomplished artists. Alan worked with Arthur on many of the projects including the State Birds & Flowers stamps. The stories about Arthur are warm and full of adventure seen from the sons' perspectives. The text draws you into their house, roadtrips, and sketching trips to get an intimate view of the prolific artist.

The book is divided into eleven chapters that follow Arthur's life from his childhood to his final days. In each chapter, artworks are featured from a period in Arthur's life. In addition to the familiar work found in the field guides and the State Birds and Flowers stamps, the book features many works in private collections and from his estate. The progression of the art and the subject matter follows mid-20th Century American history from the Great Depression, jazz in New York, World War II, rise of print and magazines, and so on. Arthur's artwork features more than birds, including zoo animals, landscapes, and portraits.

This beautifully designed book is filled with careful thought and respect to showcase Arthur Singer's sensitivities and mastery of composition and color. Out of 170 pages, 120 feature a full-page or larger print of Arthur's work. The birds range from the most common to the exotic. The facing pages are placed so the compositions of the two pieces complement each other. Some pages have full grey bleeds to highlight the composition of his works. As an illustrator and artist, I personally really loved seeing process images of an pastel sketch or a pencil sketch of his art. There is so much to learn from the images. Of course, the artworks are beautiful to look at and are reproduced beautifully. It makes me want to visit the American Museum of Natural History in New York to view and study the originals in the ornithology department!

One of the many highlights of the book is a selection of unpublished work from *Birds of the Ocean* and *Birds of the Seven Continents* housed in the American Museum of Natural History archives. The book is the first to offer readers a chance to view such work since the 1970s. The full-page excerpts of penguins, terns, eiders, pheasants, bee eaters, and parrots leave the readers hungry for more.

In addition to Arthur's works, the book also mentions numerous notable ornithologists and bird artists who were his contemporaries and colleagues. The radio interview excerpts woven in throughout the text give a glimpse into Arthur's philosophy as an artist and his approach to his works. He had a balance between commissioned art and art for himself. Many of the points raised from the interview are still relevant to artists and illustrators today.

The book is good for birders, wildlife artists, history buffs, anyone familiar with the American Home Magazines in 1950s-1970s, and of course the Golden Book of Birds.

As an illustrator, it is possible to write an entire another article on his art style: Arthur's technique is masterful. He uses line weights and color combined with meticulous research and planning to create an accurate, lively, and detailed series of work. Again, it is difficult to imagine a field guide without such lively birds full of personalities and life.

The poses that Arthur chooses for various species of animals and the accompanying flora and background result in a natural, lively feel for the entire canvas. The facial features, especially the expressions in the eyes, are captured beautifully. The feather detail is where a lot of artists get lost, but his work strikes a balance between detailed individual feathers and suggestions of a series of shapes.

Of course one doesn't need a degree in art or to be a critic to enjoy his work. His subjects are usually familiar enough that the artwork speaks for itself. The landscape selections and bird/animal sections from this book is a lovely invitation to start dreaming about a next trip or to remember times when you saw a certain bird, animal, or a particular landscape.

As a birder and illustrator myself, many of Arthur's methods and approaches are still used by illustrators and wildlife artists today. Looking at the book made me want to travel more and to paint more, even if a subject is every-day object or a common backyard feeder bird.

One of the biggest surprises I found in the book was how prolific Arthur was. Creating 600+ illustrations in two years is pretty unheard-of these days. I thought digital illustration made things faster, but I guess not! Today it is more common for a team of artists to tackle a project similar to that which Arthur Singer single-handedly approached more than fifty years ago. Even combined with Alan's help, it is hard for me to imagine working twelve hours a day every day on a project, then creating time to paint birds for fun. The book mentions some of Arthur's favorite birds - I'll leave that for the readers to discover on their own.

Arthur Singer: The Wildlife Art of an American Master by Paul Singer and Alan Singer will make a great addition to the library of a birder, an artist, or anyone who has an eye and appreciation for nature. It's an inspiring volume showcasing the life of Arthur, his art, and how his art affected the world around him.

--*Ikumi Kayama is a professional medical & scientific illustrator, creating illustrations for textbooks and academic journals. If unsupervised, she would be painting passerine birds in watercolor all day, every day! Her works have appeared in publications by the Nature Conservancy, Smithsonian Institutions, NASA, American Museum of Natural History, and many others. Ms. Kayama is Vice-President of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators.*



Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report as of January 24, 2018 by Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

The Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC) has reached the following record decisions since the latest committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This status report covers MD/DCRC review package 171. MD/DCRC

report numbers are in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. New "state" species (in bold and marked with asterisks) include **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** and **Shiny Cowbird** for MD and **Mississippi Kite** for DC. However, one species on the MD state list, Cape Verde Shearwater, was reopened, rereviewed, and not accepted by the committee. The species has been removed from the Official List of the Birds of Maryland. These changes bring the total species on the Official Lists of the Birds of MD and DC to 452 and 339, respectively.

More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web pages at the following URL:

<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/reindex.html>

MD Records Accepted:

***Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, *Calidris acuminata* [MD/2017-045]. Swan Creek/Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility, Curtis Creek, Anne Arundel County. 30-Aug-2017 through 01-Sep-2017. One adult.

Cory's Shearwater (Scopoli's), *Calonectris diomedea diomedea* [MD/2017-041]. Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 23-Aug-2014. One bird.

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasiliensis* [MD/2017-028]. Chesapeake Beach Veterans Memorial, Chesapeake Beach, Calvert County. 25-Jun-2017 through 05-Aug-2017. One bird.

Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni* [MD/2017-031]. Joseph Sacco Fire Fighting School, Valley Lee, Saint Mary's County. 24-Jun-2017. One immature.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus* [MD/2017-027]. Glendening Nature Preserve, Bristol, Anne Arundel County. 03-Jun-2017. One immature.

***Shiny Cowbird**, *Molothrus bonariensis* [MD/2017-071]. Parkwood, Bethesda, Montgomery County. 22-Oct-2017 through 15-Jan-2018. One first-year (HY) male.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), *Setophaga coronata auduboni* [MD/2004-138]. Trappe, Talbot County, 29-Apr-2003. One bird.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), *Setophaga coronata auduboni* [MD/2009-051]. Nolands Ferry, Tuscarora, Frederick County, 19-Apr-2009. One adult female.

MD Records Not Accepted:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [MD/2017-034]. Jamaica Point Road, Trappe, Talbot County, 26-Jul-2017. One bird.

Cory's Shearwater (Scopoli's), *Calonectris diomedea diomedea* [MD/2013-038]. Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County, 30-Jul-2013. One bird.

Cory's Shearwater (Scopoli's), *Calonectris diomedea diomedea* [MD/2017-040]. Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County, 21-Aug-2016. One bird.

Cape Verde Shearwater, *Calonectris edwardsii* [MD/2017-035]. Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County, 21-Oct-2006. One bird. **See additional information, below.**

Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus* [MD/2017-015]. private farm, Hagerstown, Washington County, 27-Mar-2017. One bird.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), *Setophaga coronata auduboni* [MD/2009-030]. Hollywood, Saint Mary's County, 02-Mar-2009. One bird.

DC Records Accepted:

*Mississippi Kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis* [DC/2011-161]. Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, 21-May-2011. One subadult.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE CAPE VERDE SHEARWATER DECISION.

On a 21 Oct 2006 Lewes, Delaware pelagic trip into Maryland waters, a Cape Verde Shearwater was reported and photographed. This was the second report of this species for North America. In 2008, the report was accepted by the MD/DCRC, with much reliance on outside expert opinions, and the species was added to the Official List of the Birds of Maryland (<http://www.mdbirds.org/mdderc/pdf/mdlst.pdf>).

In 2014, the committee received an analysis from two former committee members questioning the original decision based on updated knowledge of the identification and taxonomy of the *Calonectris* shearwater complex (including the recent split of Scopoli's Shearwater from Cory's Shearwater). Based on this analysis, the committee voted to reopen the original record. The reopened report was re-reviewed, along with current shearwater references and updated outside expert opinions. In package 171, during a second-round review, the report not accepted. Therefore, the committee has removed this species from the Official List of the Birds of Maryland.

Since this is a significant decision, the committee is providing additional information from the review process. Below is related information from the committee's database and voting members' comments, gleaned from their ballots.

Original Accepted 2008 Decision Summary [MD/2006-264]:

The committee found that the photographs and written descriptions found for the identification of Cape Verde Shearwater. The photographs indicated a bird that was smaller than the Cory's with which it was associating. Other supporting characteristics included the slim, dark bill; the longer tail; head and neck shape; wing and primary shape; and a different mantle and upperwing pattern. Other similar species, including Cory's, Greater, Manx; and even Wedge-tailed Shearwater were eliminated. All outside experts polled for advice also concurred with the identification.

Reopened Not Accepted 2017 Decision Summary [MD/2017-035]:

This was a multiple-round split vote. Some committee members felt that the documentation supported identification of a Cape Verde Shearwater; however, other members found that the documentation was equivocal and did not eliminate similar taxa. In the end, not enough votes were cast to sustain this reopened report as a formal Maryland record and this species will now be removed from the Official List of the Birds of Maryland. The committee is not suggesting that this taxon was not seen, but rather just that the submitted documentation left questions in the minds of some members. Regardless, the report and related documentation are now preserved in

the committee's archives for posterity and future researchers.

The following are excerpts from the committee's voting members' ballots:

COMMENTS SUPPORTING ACCEPTANCE:

• Normally for a first state record, a detailed field description would be expected. For many sea-bird sightings this may not be possible as sightings are often of a matter of seconds and in combination with often quite distant birds. Having excellent photographic equipment and skills to confirm the I/D on any unusual birds is virtually a requirement. This sighting is a great example of the above. Given a combination of difficult lighting conditions, with observers looking directly into the sunlight for at least part of the time, this identification was dependent on three digital images taken. Fortunately [and rather surprisingly] these images managed to show the most important identification criteria in separating three closely related shearwaters [Cory's, Scopoli's and Cape Verde Shearwaters] which were, until quite recently, lumped together by most authorities.

• The images show one individual with an overall slim build, looking decidedly slimmer than a Cory's Shearwater. The bird also lacked the bulky, large-headed look of a Cory's -- displaying an obviously smaller head. Also, the wings appeared narrower than that species, and the bill decidedly slimmer and probably proportionally longer. A combination of these factors can eliminate Cory's.

• The identification criteria recently developed to separate Scopoli's from Cory's is also useful in separating it from Cape Verde Shearwater. This criterion compares the amount of white on the primaries of the under-wing of Scopoli's, particularly P6 thru P10. In Scopoli's there is a large amount of white on the under-wing.

• Based on a review of many digital and print images [esp. Porter et al. 1997] of Scopoli's and Cape Verde Shearwaters, the former species shows consistently more extensive white underwings than Cape Verde. In many birds the white of the primaries extends well into the dark wing tip. This gives the wing-tip color a broken appearance rather than the more solid black of both Cory's and Cape Verde. By contrast, both

Cory's and Cape Verde have both significantly less white [or none at all] on the underwing primaries [especially P6 thru P10]. In fact, Cape Verde Shearwater's under-wing pattern is quite similar to Cory's, with little or no white tongues to the under-wing of P6-P10. This gives this species a substantially darker under-wing than Scopoli's. Based solely on a review of the images of all three species, this should be a distinctive and reliable identification criterion.

• As indicated above, the digital images supporting this submission are slightly out of focus. However, they do show the largely black wing-tip with the white on the under-wing area limited. This is what one would expect in Cape Verde. In viewing the many digital images of both species on the computer, Scopoli's consistently shows a substantially greater area of white coloring on the underwing than those shown in the images supporting this record which [in my opinion] would support acceptance of submission as Cape Verde Shearwater.

COMMENTS SUPPORTING NOT ACCEPTANCE:

• This might actually be a Cape Verde Shearwater. The photos, however, are insufficient to be certain: the backlighting, lack of scale to compare with other species, the blurriness... (none of which I blame on the photographer, but simply is an unfortunate outcome due to the conditions and brief time the bird was seen). As knowledge about Scopoli's has become better understood in the past 15 years, documentation of a rarity such as Cape Verde would have to be clear in excluding Scopoli's, since it is also a slighter, relatively more delicate bird than Cory's. We can't do that from these photos. As Mularney pointed out, there appears to be white extending beyond the primary coverts in this bird, which is a Scopoli's feature. Mularney's montage of birds we are examining compared to a Cape Verde he had photographed in a similar position also leaves us uncertain that this is a Cape Verde. None of the original observers noted that the bill of the bird was gray, only that it wasn't bright yellow, and although it appears smaller than that of a Cory's, it is difficult to be certain if it is as slight as a Cape Verde, or simply the somewhat delicate bill of a Scopoli's. I don't feel we have enough evidence to Accept the record.

• The comments of other members on the prior ballots led me to another thorough review of

everything we have on this bird. I still can't find clarity or certainty in accepting this record. Too many questions come up when reviewing the comments, concerns and doubts of experts based on more current knowledge and experience on Cape Verde versus Scopoli's and Cory's Shearwaters. I wish the photos had been clearer.

- The dorsal view photo looks great for CV as first glance--the bill shape and capped effect look promising, but the various comments about the issues with back-lighting are important. I notice that the bill of a Cory's in the original submission (page 4 of 8) also looks thin, due to backlighting. The ventral view certainly doesn't seem to add anything in favor of CV as far as I can see. Not a hint of the restricted but well demarcated white crescent on uppertail coverts, that most (but not all) CV show (according to photos that I've trawled through). Underwing pattern could fit Scopoli's. So, I'm not convinced that Scopoli's can be ruled out on the evidence in the photos. I think this could have been CV, but I find it difficult to support the acceptance of this bird.
- There are, however, some difficulties with this record including [1] the extremely limited time of observation, [2] the digital images are all slightly out of focus, and [3] structurally both Scopoli's and Cape Verde are very similar. In fact, [according to Howell] there is overlap in both the wingspread [110-121cm and bill length 35-55mm [Scopoli's], wingspread [101-112] and bill length 40-45mm [Cape Verde].
- Could well have been a Cape Verde, but there are too many questions about photographic artefacts to be totally confident about any of the ID features.
- I was struck by the apparent agreement of all the experts back in 2006, but we now read that Brinkley's more skeptical comments apparently didn't come through and that's Brian Patterson did not mean his to be so glowing as they seem. We also have new comments from Jonathan Alderfer. Even with the original expert comments there are some issues. Several say it looks good, but they'd like better pics and more field notes. Understandable for a 2nd NA record. Also, only a subset of the experts explicitly addressed Scopoli's. The comments of those that don't maybe aren't so useful. That being said we are left

with several positive expert opinions that explicitly discuss Scopoli's and that means something.

- As far as the write-ups: [Observer 1]'s does not seem to do much to eliminate Scopoli's except possibly the description of the wingbeat/flight style. That part is intriguing, but of limited use in such a short encounter I think.
- [Observer 2]'s write-up: Similar to [Observer 1]'s above. The description of the flight style is intriguing but hard to take much from that in such a short encounter. [Observer 2] does explicitly mention Scopoli's while discussing the bill, but I don't buy his argument that a Scopoli's bill would have stood out to him. Scopoli's have a slimmer bill than borealis and in a lot of pics online and in this package, they appear fairly dull. Finally, [Observer 2] seems at pains to emphasize the bird did not have a cap, but Cape Verde apparently can appear capped and Scopoli's can appear not capped. Therefore, these comments don't do much to eliminate Scopoli's.
- So ultimately the decision comes down to the photos themselves and the expert remarks on them. I am sympathetic to Jonathan's critique of the photos that they are not good enough to say there are no white tongues or that the bill is slimmer than Scopoli's (which is already pretty slim compared to borealis). So, I think we have to go to minor structural and plumage details. The best expert comments all address these which is very intriguing. But generally, the references suggest these are subtle and hard to judge except in direct comparison or in the hand. So, considering how poor the photos are and the major significance of the record I don't think we should rely solely on these minor features together with a description of the wing beat. Therefore, I do not accept.
- No change from round one. [Observer 2] write-up does not adequately eliminate Scopoli's. This comes down to a few poor photos. Not enough to support a 2nd NA record especially since the photos hint at some features of Scopoli's.
- I still feel strongly that this is a CVSH. However, the photos are not 100 percent conclusive as you would want for a first state record.

• After thoroughly reading all the analysis from 10 years ago and recently, I still believe the bird was a Cape Verde Shearwater. However, as many people noted (and I have said many times about other sightings), a bird this rare (2nd North American record), should be unequivocal and have amazing photos. The photos are very suggestive in structure, but the appearance of possible white on the outer primaries does bother me. The underwing pattern doesn't look extensive enough to be Scopoli's, which should then point to Cape Verde, but the photo quality prevents further detailed analysis. Perhaps one day we can reevaluate this based on new information, but right now, I have to agree that the photos are not conclusive.

• I still think this was a Cape Verde Shearwater based on the structure we saw in the field (as well as Mullarney's photo comparison!). However, the photo quality reduces the confidence I have in any photo analysis. There does appear to be some white on the outer primaries. One member says it's not enough for Scopoli's, but I'm not sure I can reach that conclusion from the photos. So, as I wrote before, a record this extraordinary needs better evidence.

• I think there is a good chance it was a CVSH. As several reviewers commented, there is evidence supporting CVSH, but it's difficult to say it's unequivocal.

• I agree with Sherman Suter's comments in the re-opening document that Scopoli's was not adequately considered during the original comment and review period, though I'm not completely convinced that the bird is a Scopoli's and not a Cape Verde. Mullarney's collage of photos is certainly tantalizing in the structural similarities between his Cape Verde photo and [Observer 3]'s, but the underwing issue he points out can't be ignored.

• I reviewed the original documentation, the original ballots, and all of the "reopening" correspondence. To keep it short and simple, there is too much hesitation and doubt expressed by top seabird experts across the world to accept this as a first state record. Specific things that really stuck out: Brian Patteson noting that the "thin" bill could have been an artifact of the lighting; Killian Mullarney's photo comparison; and Steve Howell's

simple but direct rejection of the record. Apparently, this record came before extensive new information regarding [Scopoli's] became available, and there isn't enough documentation provided to separate this bird from that taxon with 100% certainty.

• I am voting "Not Accept" because it is extremely difficult for me to be sure of any of the field marks on the images provided to make a positive identification as CVSH. The only shared opinion by the observers present is the size of the bird - that it was smaller than COSH. I'm concerned that the lighting conditions described during the sighting [illustrated in the photographs] must have made it extremely difficult see and judge the finer details to a CVSH. I'm stuck on the backlighting issue and odd effects it produces. Although I read all testimony provided by very knowledgeable and experienced pelagic birders; the most significant element of these conversations was a new/different approach to identifying CVSH and separating it from the other shearwaters. It may have been a CVSH ...



MOS Calendar

Mar - Apr 2018
By Marilyn VEEK

March, dates TBD

■ **Harford.** Timberdoodle Searches. Two searches will be scheduled during the month. Times, dates and locations will be determined by recent sightings. Details will be provided via email, social media or by contacting the HBC field trip chairperson, Tom Gibson, gibsonlld@aol.com or 410-734-4135.

Thursday, March 1

MEETING. **Frederick.** Renowned Smithsonian ornithologist *Carla Dove* will explain the role of feather forensics in aviation safety in "When Birds Collide." 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd, Frederick. Contact Don Hambright, 301-676-0635.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, March 2

DINNER/MEETING. Harford. Speaker and topic TBA. Dinner at 6:15 PM, general meeting at 7:15 PM, presentation at 8 PM. Churchville Presbyterian Church, 2844 Churchville Rd.

Saturday, March 3

■ Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. The park has a lot of trails and diverse habitat with fields and wooded areas to explore. Alan produced a checklist of the birds of the Park and walks and explores this area regularly. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at Kinder Farm Park. Take the first left before the gatehouse and meet at the last parking lot up the hill. Contact leaders Alan and Susan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

■ Harford. Perryville. Expect to see eagles, winter ducks, woodpeckers, and hopefully swans. 9 AM. Meet at Stumps Point at the far end of the Perryville Community Park. Leaders are Colleen Webster, cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577, and Sue Procell, procell1@comcast.net or 443-417-4919.

MOS BOARD MEETING. **Howard.** Mt Pleasant Howard County Conservancy, 10520 Old Frederick Rd, Woodstock.

■ Kent. Friends of Eastern Neck NWR will sponsor a Refuge walk through areas normally closed to the public. A local birding expert or naturalist will guide the walk. Plan for a flat, two-mile outing, with cocoa and cookies at Refuge HQ afterwards. Bring binoculars and a camera. Wear boots and dress warmly. No rain date. Registration is limited to 20, first-come, first-served. Children over 12 are permitted, but no dogs. Walks are free (with a tax-deductible donation payable to Friends of Eastern Neck appreciated to keep the program self-sustaining). To register at Eventbrite, go to: <http://bit.ly/2vWPDBt>. 8 AM (two hours). Meet at Refuge HQ. For more information, contact Gren Whitman, easternneckwalks@gmail.com or 443-691-9370.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at E end of Lemon's Br Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, March 4

■ Howard. Centennial Park. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Facilities available. Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. Accessible. 8 AM (2-3 hrs). West end parking lot. Leaders Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrrpeters.org

■ Kent. Chesapeake Farms. Wintering waterfowl, raptors (notably eagles), White-crowned and other sparrows. Bring snacks. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ Talbot. Fishing Boat off of Tilghman. A local captain has agreed to take a small group of TBC members on a fishing boat out into the Chesapeake, hopefully providing close up views of large rafts of sea ducks, gannets and maybe Great Cormorants at Sharps Island Light. Sign up in advance, and there will be a fee for the boat trip to cover the captain's costs. Leaving from Knapps Narrows Marina. Coordinated by Jan Reese, 410-745-2875 or reesejan@gmail.com.

■ Talbot. Late afternoon and evening at Pickering Creek. Early March is peak time for hearing and possibly seeing the elusive "timber doodle" (or American Woodcock to most of us). The fields around Pickering Creek can be filled with peenting woodcock at sunset. Before the show begins, look for sparrows, Rusty Blackbirds and other woodland species. 3:30 PM. Depart Easton Acme parking lot. 4 PM. Meet at Pickering Creek parking lot. Leader Ron Ketter, rketter@verizon.net.

Tuesday, March 6

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Kurt Schwarz on "Cape May Capers." A description of the bird life and birding sites of Cape May County, NJ. Cape May is one of the most famous migration hotspots in North America. Kurt Schwarz is conservation chair of

MOS and former President of the Howard County Bird Club. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, lecture starts about 7:20 PM. Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Seasons at South Tract. One of a series of quarterly bird walks at the South Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge. We will walk some of the trails and will stop at the Pollinator Garden bird feeding area by the Visitor Center. Be prepared to walk up to 2.5 miles. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Target species include early migrating landbirds and lingering waterfowl. 9 AM (half day). Meet in the parking lot of the National Wildlife Visitor Center; bear left on entering the parking area and go all the way to the last section of the lot past the covered electric vehicle recharging station. For further information contact leader Marcia Watson, marshwren50@comcast.net.

Wednesday, March 7

■ Baltimore. Fort McHenry. Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys at the Fort and wetland. Telescope can be useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM (half day). Meet outside of front gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

■ Montgomery. Informal Late Afternoon Bird Walk. Joint trip with ANS. We'll be checking out the Potomac River for waterfowl, gulls, terns, etc. Next stop will be Hughes Hollow, part of McKee Beshers WMA. Potential highlights here include early Tree Swallows, calling Pied-billed Grebes and Wood Ducks and other waterfowl flying into roost. We'll finish with American Woodcock display if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope, flashlight and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. Reservations are not required. All are welcome. 4:30 PM. Meet at the end of Seneca Rd at Riley's Lock "on the bridge." For more info, call leader Jim Green, 301-742-0036.

Thursday, March 8

MEETING. **Howard.** "The Azores and Madeira Islands: Endemics and Island Beauty," by *Phil Davis*. Phil has long been fascinated by these islands as stepping stones for vagrant European and African rarities arriving in North America. Phil

and his wife, Barbara, traveled to the islands in 2014 and returned two years later to lead a group of birders on a grand tour of seven islands. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Ctr, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Saturday, March 10

■ Allegany/Garrett. C&O Canal at Little Orleans. In eastern Allegany County we'll look for early migrating birds and winter residents along the canal. Waterfowl and American Eagles may be seen at several overlooks of the Potomac River. 8:15 AM. Car pool from the P&R at Ali Ghan Rd and Christie Rd, exit 46 off I-68. 9 AM. Meet at the C&O Canal at Little Orleans.

■ Anne Arundel. 3rd Annual Woodcock Whoopee! Join Alan and Sue Young on a search for the elusive American Woodcock. Hopefully we will catch them in their fantastic nocturnal displays and songs of love. Meet at Kinder Farm Park Visitor Center promptly at 5:45 PM to catch the show. **Contact Alan and Susan** at 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

■ Baltimore. Youth Trip to Marshy Point Nature Center. We will set out along the trails and boardwalk for a mix of late winter residents and early migrants. Fox and Tree Sparrows are good possibilities, and Rusty Blackbirds may turn up, as well as a selection of both land and water birds including Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush and plenty of waterfowl. 9 AM. Meet at the Visitor's Center. Leader John Robinson, 410-483-6620 or jcrobin@jhmi.edu.

■ Carroll. Woodcock Walk at Morgan Run. Come strain your eyes and ears to appreciate these curious birds as they perform their annual courting ritual. 6 PM. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Ben Rose Ln. Contact Allan McQuarrie, 410-552-1278, if you plan to attend.

■ Cecil. Perryville Community Park. Seeking out lingering winter waterfowl at the Park and along the Susquehanna River. Dress for extreme cold and wind. Bring scope if you have one. A mix of driving and some walking. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the North East Community Park, at the end of Walnut St. Leader Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

■ **Frederick.** Black Hills Reservoir. Bald Eagles and over-wintering waterfowl. Contact leader David Smith, 410-549-7082, for meeting time and location.

■ **Montgomery.** Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area. Joint trip with Audubon Naturalist Society. Waterfowl, Wilson's Snipe, winter and early spring songbirds, Ospreys displaying. Wear muddy conditions footgear. Reservations required (15-person limit). 8 AM (half day). Meet at Park hdqtrs parking lot. Leader John Bjerke, johnbjerke1@mac.com.

Sunday, March 11 (Daylight Saving Time begins)

■ **Anne Arundel. Quiet Waters Park.** Monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. \$6 per car Park entry fee. 8 AM (3 hrs). Meet at Blue Heron Ctr. Leader **David Gillum**, 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

■ **Baltimore.** Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy walk through varied habitats for winter waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM (half day). Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

■ **Howard.** Centennial Park. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Facilities available. Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. Accessible. 8 AM (2-3 hrs). West end parking lot. Leader Mary Lou Clark, doctorfx_99@yahoo.com.

■ **Talbot.** Talbot County Wastewater Treatment Plant. Expect plenty of Canada Geese with opportunities for rare waterfowl on the impoundments as well as sparrows, larks and raptors in the immediate vicinity. 7 AM. Easton Acme parking lot. Leaders Paul and Priscilla Thut, 410-745-6657 or pdthut@gmail.com. Breakfast host Betty Maki, bjmaki04@gmail.com.

Monday, March 12

MEETING. **Talbot.** Program TBD. 7 PM, Bayleigh Chase (aka William Hill Manor) Auditorium, 501 Dutchman's Lane, Easton.

Tuesday, March 13

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** *Liz McDowell*, Coordinator, Western Mountains Chapter, Native Plant Society, will speak on "Native Plants, a Welcome Sight For Wildlife". 7 PM, Compton Hall, Room TBA, Frostburg State University.

MEETING. **Kent.** Program TBD. 7:30 PM at Heron Point of Chestertown, off East Campus Ave.

■ **Montgomery.** Informal Late Afternoon Bird Walks. Joint trip with ANS. We'll be checking out the Potomac River for waterfowl, gulls, terns, etc. Next stop will be Hughes Hollow, part of McKee Beshers WMA. Potential highlights here include early Tree Swallows, calling Pied-billed Grebes and Wood Ducks and other waterfowl flying into roost. We'll finish with American Woodcock display if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope, flashlight and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. Reservations are not required. All are welcome. 4:30 PM. Meet at the end of Seneca Rd at Riley's Lock "on the bridge." For more info, call leader Jim Green, 301-742-0036.

MEETING. **Patuxent/PGAS.** "Birds and climate change: using climate change projections to inform conservation throughout the Americas" presented by *Chad Wilsey*, Director of Conservation Science in the science division of the National Audubon Society. Chad will cover the approaches that National Audubon is taking to gather data on the effects of climate change on birds, and how this data can be used to shape policy. Free and open to the public. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time. College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 2nd Fl, 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park.

Thursday, March 15

MEETING. **Caroline.** *Alice Mohrman*, Education Coordinator for Abbott's Mill Nature Center, Delaware Nature Society, will speak on "Gardening for Clean Water and Butterflies". 7:30 PM. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

■ **Montgomery.** Informal Late Afternoon Bird Walks. Joint trip with ANS. We'll be checking out the Potomac River for waterfowl, gulls, terns, etc.

Next stop will be Hughes Hollow, part of McKee Beshers WMA. Potential highlights here include early Tree Swallows, calling Pied-billed Grebes and Wood Ducks and other waterfowl flying into roost. We'll finish with American Woodcock display if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope, flashlight and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. Reservations are not required. All are welcome. 4:30 PM. Meet at the end of Seneca Rd at Riley's Lock "on the bridge." For more info, call leader Jim Green, 301-742-0036.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net for more information.

Saturday-Sunday, March 17-18

■ YMOS. Maryland Youth Birdathon. Fund Raising for the World Series of Birding Teams. You can pledge any time prior to the Birdathon by emailing George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com) or Wayne Bell (wbell2@washcoll.edu). Remaining wintering birds and early migrants, owls and rails. The group will begin in Ocean City on Saturday morning and end up in Dorchester County by evening. The search will resume Sunday morning in Dorchester and conclude by the Bay Bridge late Sunday afternoon. Lodging will be available Friday and Saturday nights in Dorchester County. Students will need money for meals. Logistics and specific times will be coordinated once we know who is going. Participants can come either or both days. Email George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com) of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip.

Saturday, March 17

■ Anne Arundel. Little Patuxent River Oxbow Lake Nature Preserve. Join Jay Sheppard and Marcia Stutzman along Eagle's Head Cove in search of waterfowl and more. We will carpool to multiple entry points that you can check out later. No bathroom facilities. Scope is helpful. 8:30 AM (2½ hrs). Park on the west side of Oxbow Place near the marked entrance to Oxbow Preserve. Contact Julia Lasher, 301-643-6496 or JuliaAlys@hotmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescope can be useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM. Meet outside of park gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader David Sandler, 410-370-0747.

■ Baltimore. Little Gull Chase. Every March a few Little Gulls appear on Back River in large flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls. We will search for them at Cox Point Park, Diamond Point Rd and other likely spots. Trip limited to 12. Reserve your spot with Nancy O'Hara, 10 AM. Meet at Cox Point Park in Essex. Leaders Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com, and Nancy O'Hara, noh529@gmail.com or 443-286-0922.

■ Frederick. Signs of Spring. Audubon Society of Central MD Nature Walk. 9 AM (two hours). Audrey Carroll Sanctuary, 13030 Old Annapolis Rd, Mt Airy. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071.

■ Harford. Waterfowl Tour. Search a variety of locations to see the many species of waterfowl that use our waterways. 6:45 AM. Meet at the McDonalds on Rt 40 in Edgewood. Leader Dave Webb, porzana@comcast.net or 410-939-3537.

■ Howard. Winter Sparrow Search. Search the wetlands and dry fields as we look for as many sparrows as possible while looking for signs of spring. This is the peak time for singing Fox Sparrows. Waterproof boots are recommended. Facilities at some spots. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Howard County Conservancy parking lot. Leader Bonnie Ott, sparrowdamsel@gmail.com or 443-285-3302.

■ Kent. Bombay Hook NWR. Explore one of the area's premier National Wildlife Refuges for waterfowl, shorebirds, herons and other early migrants. Bring lunch. 8 AM (full day). Meet at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. No reservations needed. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. For

more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ **Talbot.** Oxford and environs. Explore the Oxford Natural Area for sparrows and meadowlarks. Land birding, especially at fields outside of town, sometimes yields birds such as Horned Larks and Pipits. 7 AM. Easton Acme parking lot. 7:20 AM at Town Park in Oxford, across from the Town Hall. Leaders Tom Corl, 202-215-1684 or tom.corl@gmail.com, and Ron Ketter, rketter@verizon.net.

Sunday, March 18

■ **Howard.** Centennial Park. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Facilities available. Waterfowl expected, woodland trails for passerines. Accessible. 8 AM (2-3 hrs). West end parking lot. Leaders Karen and Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731 or KJHeff122@gmail.com.

Wednesday, March 21

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird", with *Katie Fallon*. Vultures evoke many feelings in humans: envy of their effortless flight, frustration with their urban roosts, and perhaps both appreciation and disgust at their eating habits. Vultures are often overlooked, underappreciated, and unloved, despite the vital role they play healthy ecosystems. Worldwide, vultures are more likely to be threatened or endangered than any other group of raptor, but in the United States Turkey and Black Vultures may be increasing in number. Based on Katie Fallon's new book, this presentation will discuss the life and times of the noble Turkey Vulture, including its feeding, nesting, and roosting habits, migratory behaviors, and common misconceptions. Katie's book will be available for purchase and signing. 7 - 9 PM. Blue Heron Center, Quiet Waters Park. Contact Barbara Johnson at 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 24

■ **Allegany/Garrett.** Rocky Gap, Mason Road Pond and C&O Canal Terminus. With Washington County Bird Club. We will travel to several spots at Rocky Gap for waterfowl before moving on to Mason Rd Pond and the C & O Canal Terminus. 8:15 AM. Carpool from P&R at Rt 36 and I-68. 9 AM. Carpool from the NRP office, 12512 Pleasant Valley Rd near entrance to Rocky Gap SP. Contact

Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

■ **Anne Arundel.** Lake Roland. Centered on Lake Roland in the Jones Falls valley, the park has 503 acres of exceptionally diverse ecosystems including wetlands, meadows, and mature hardwood forests. Most significant is the environmentally sensitive serpentine barrens in the Bare Hills area, home to many rare and endangered species of flora and fauna. 8:10 AM. Meet at the Cromwell Station Light Rail stop in Glen Burnie to take the 8:28 train to the Falls Road stop at the park entrance, a 40-minute ride. We can eat lunch nearby at Pepe's before the return train trip at 1:20. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

■ **Cecil.** Blackwater and Beyond. This trip is designed to see large numbers of waterfowl during the height of spring staging season, at Blackwater NWR. Bald Eagles are a bonus feature. Ospreys may be newly arrived and if so, will be setting up territories. Some early shorebirds might be on the move. Come take advantage of the peaceful Eastern Shore ambiance before the tourist season sets in. Bring breakfast, lunch and snacks; there are few opportunities to purchase food in the vicinity. Dress for possible extreme cold and wind. Bring scope if you have one. Some easy walking on level ground. 9 AM (full day). Meet at the Blackwater Headquarters parking lot. To carpool, we suggest arranging to meet near Dunkin' Donuts in Big Elk Mall, intersection of Rt 40 and Rt 213 in Elkton, at 6 AM. Leader Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com.

■ **Harford.** Perryman Area. Explore several spots within this Bush River region that attract a variety of species (wintering sparrows, raptors, migrating waterfowl). 7:30 AM. Meet at the Aberdeen Walmart parking lot. Leader Mark Johnson, marksjohnson2@gmail.com or 410-692-5978.

■ **Howard.** Waterfowl Search. We'll search Howard County waterways for ducks, grebes, mergansers and loons. Chance of an early migrant. 8 AM (half day). Meet at Lake Elkhorn Broken Land Pkwy parking lot to carpool. Leader Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643, krschwa1@verizon.net.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Susquehanna River from Havre de Grace to Conowingo. We will bird from the top of the Chesapeake Bay up the Susquehanna River to the Conowingo Dam, stopping at various overlooks for the primary target species, gulls and waterfowl. The trip is planned for the peak period for Little Gull, Black-headed Gull, and Bonaparte's Gull. Scoters, grebes and loons also possible. Eagles should be abundant, and the woods along the river usually harbor a good selection of wintering and resident birds, including woodpeckers, kinglets, thrushes, and Winter Wrens. Bring snacks and drinks and dress warmly – conditions are often windy along the river. Reservations needed. 9 AM (3/4 day). Meet at the Havre de Grace Marina, 723 Water St. To reserve your seat and for more information, contact leader, Gene Scarpulla, ejscarp@comcast.net, no later than March 17.

■ Tri-county. Berlin Falls Park (formerly the Berlin WWTP) and other Worcester County locations to look for late ducks and early migrants. Depending on the weather and what is being reported, we will explore the Ocean City area, and perhaps Castaways and/or Assateague. In general, the birding will be easy on level ground, much of it paved. Sturdy shoes will be useful at the Berlin Falls Park as we will be on a dirt/grass road around the park. Bring lunch, snacks, drinks or buy at Royal Farms where we will stop for convenience breaks. 7:30 AM. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot. 8:15 AM. Meet at Berlin Falls Park parking lot. For more information, contact trip leader Marcia Balestri at mebalestri@gmail.com.

Sunday, March 25

■ Howard. Centennial Park. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Facilities available. Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. Accessible. 8 AM (2-3 hrs). West end parking lot. Leader Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.net or 410-461-2408.

■ Talbot. Southwestern Caroline County in and around the village of Choptank. Views over the Choptank River can be rewarding in early spring for waterfowl and unusual gulls. Will visit Poplar Neck Marsh for marsh birds and sparrows. 7 AM. Depart Easton Acme parking lot. Leader Dave

Palmer, 410-829-3376 or dpalmermd59@gmail.com.

Monday, March 26

MEETING. Tri-county. "Maryland Safe Skies" presented by Beth Decker. 7 PM. MAC Education Center off Snow Hill Rd, Salisbury. For more information, contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

Tuesday, March 27

■ Baltimore. Phoenix Pond. Excellent migrant spot in N Baltimore County on NCR Trail. Self-guided walk. Optional add-on to nearby Paper Mill Rd Flats. 8 AM. Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or (text only) 410-967-5896.

MEETING. Washington. "MOS Sanctuaries" with Marcia Watson. 7 PM. Mt. Aetna Nature Ctr, 21905 Mt. Aetna Rd, Hagerstown.

Saturday, March 31

■ Harford. Susquehanna SP. We will look for gulls, lingering waterfowl and perhaps some early surprises. Additional sites in the Park may also be visited. 8 AM. Meet at the Lapidum parking lot at the south end of the Park. Leader Dennis Kirkwood, newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905.

■ Howard. Alpha Ridge Landfill. Vesper sparrow and other field birds possible. Meadowlarks, kestrels and other open country birds expected. Rarities possible. Moderate walking over hills and fields of the landfill. Facilities at Alpha Ridge Park. 7:45 AM (half day). Meet at Alpha Ridge Park to carpool to landfill (required). Contact Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com or 410-772-8424.

Sunday, April 1 (Easter Sunday)

■ Cecil. Conowingo Wildflowers and Birds. The Wildflower Trail at Conowingo goes south from Fisherman's Park along the bank of the Susquehanna, through wooded wetlands and along the base of cliffs that are, at this season, blanketed with Dutchman's Breeches, Virginia Bluebells, Trillium, and other spring wildflowers. The earlier spring migrants, Phoebes and Louisiana Waterthrushes, may be seen, and maybe some lingering winter visitors, like Winter Wren. We may also spend some time scoping the

waters below the dam to see what's about. Dress warmly if the weather is unseasonably cold. Easy walking on a level, well-graded trail (short stretches may be a bit muddy). 8 AM (half day). Meet at Fisherman's Park below the Dam. Leader Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

■ **Talbot.** Mill Ponds East of Route 50. Search for arriving northbound transient species in forested bottomlands in close proximity to Easton. 7 AM. Depart Easton Acme parking lot. Leader Jan Reese, 410-745-2875 or reesejan@gmail.com.

Tuesday, April 3

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Sean McCandless on "Hawk Identification." This program will review raptors that visit Maryland annually and will teach the basic field marks needed to identify perched and flying hawks. Sean is an avid birder and bird photographer based in Cecil County. Related field trip April 7. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, lecture starts about 7:20 PM. Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum.

Wednesday, April 4

■ **Baltimore.** Fort McHenry. Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys at the Fort and wetland. Telescope can be useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM (half day). Meet outside of park gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Butterflies and Gardening Strategy" by Debbie Maeder. 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Center, Westminster. Contact Don Jewell, jewelldg@gmail.com.

Thursday, April 5

MEETING. **Frederick.** Marcia Watson will talk about MOS sanctuaries. 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd, Frederick. Contact Don Hambright, 301-676-0635.

■ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday-Sunday, April 7-8

MOS. Work Weekend at Irish Grove. Join us in beautiful Somerset County for a weekend full of

projects, camaraderie and birding at Irish Grove MOS Sanctuary. You can stay for free at the house or pitch your tent in the yard. Indoor space is limited. To see video of last spring's work weekend, search for MOS Sanctuaries on YouTube. See you there! If you plan to attend or have questions, please contact Dotty Mumford, dottymum@comcast.net or 443-214-5154.

Saturday, April 7

■ **Allegany/Garrett.** Garrett County Ponds. We'll visit Finzel Swamp, Piney Reservoir, Meadows Lake and Campground and New Germany SP (if time permits). Pack a lunch for a picnic at the Park. 9 AM. Carpool from Parkside School in LaVale. 9:30 AM. Meet at Finzel Swamp. Contact Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

■ **Baltimore.** Fort Smallwood Hawkwatch. Try out those Hawk ID skills with a field trip to the Baltimore area's premier spring Hawkwatch site. Last year on April 7 this site recorded 8 species of hawks including good numbers of Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk and American Kestrel. Trip is free, but there's a \$6 fee for parking. 9 AM. Leader Sean McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com. Coordinator (for carpooling) Nancy O'Hara, noh529@gmail.com or 443-286-0922.

■ **Cecil.** Fair Hill NRMA. Fair Hill in spring is one of Cecil County's birdiest spots. A variety of habitats, including woods, fields and wetlands, means that we will see a number of different spring migrants. Portions of the trail may be muddy, so boots are recommended. 7 AM (half day). Meet at the Foxcatcher Farm Covered Bridge parking lot on Tawes Dr. There is an honor system daily fee (\$3 Maryland residents; \$4 out-of-state visitors). Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

■ **Frederick.** North Point SP and Black Marsh. Explore two beautiful adjacent sites on the Chesapeake Bay. Black Marsh is a wild and natural Nature Conservancy property. Contact leader Kathy Calvert, 301-810-5677, for meeting time and location.

■ **Harford.** Rocks SP. Spend the morning on the trails of the Deer Creek woodland to search for various woodland species. Some hiking on hilly

trails is involved. After the main walk we'll visit one or more picnic areas that will require a \$3.00 (\$5.00 out of state) per person fee. 7:30 AM. Meet at the ranger station parking lot on Rocks Chrome Hill Rd. Leader Mark Magnani, mwmagnani@gmail.com or 410-838-1778.

Howard. Sharps at Waterford Farm. Moderate walking over crop stubble, farm roads and paths on this working farm. Fields with crop residue, extensive woodlands, Cattail Creek and floodplain, three ponds and five shallow waterfowl impoundments make for diverse habitats and good birding opportunities. Port-a-pots available. Knee-high waterproof footwear required for part of walk. 8 AM (half day). Meet at farm parking area, through barns on right. Rt 97 S to right on Jennings Chapel Rd, 1 mile to right into farm at sign. Leader Wes Earp, wesandsue@gmail.com or 410-531-3197

Kent. Pickering Creek Audubon Center. Spring birding for late waterfowl, raptors, sparrows and the occasional surprise. Bring lunch. 8 AM (full day). Meet at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

Patuxent/PGAS. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at E end of Lemon's Br Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday – Tuesday, April 8 – 10

Washington. Bombay Hook. Contact Mark Abdy, mjabdy@yahoo.com or 301-432-7696 for details.

Sunday, April 8

Anne Arundel. Quiet Waters Park. Monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat, and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. \$6 per car Park entry fee. 8 AM (3 hrs). Meet at Blue Heron Center. Contact David Gillum, 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy walk through varied habitats for winter waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 8 AM (half day). Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

Montgomery. Hughes Hollow and Vicinity. We will explore the wetlands of Hughes Hollow and Sycamore Landing. Species to be expected include Red-headed Woodpeckers, Wood Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, and many other marsh dwellers. A chance for several warblers including Prothonotary. Reservations are not required, but please contact the leader if you are planning to come so he can provide additional information before the trip. 7 AM (half day). Meet at Hughes Hollow parking lot in the McKee-Beshers WMA. Leader Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net or 240-515-4517.

Talbot. Urban Birding. We will again (our 10th year) bird the variety of habitats around the Target Shopping Center and the newly developed shopping areas nearby in search of early spring migrants. Every year we have seen our FOY Rough-winged Swallows on this trip. We will scan fields, open water, tidal guts, wood margins and hedgerows for early arriving migrants as well as wintering birds. 7 AM. Depart Easton Acme parking lot. Leader Terry Allen, 410-829-5840 or pattyallen10@hotmail.com. Breakfast host Cathy Cooper, coopercw@goeaston.net, at home or in the Londonderry Manor House.

Monday, April 9

MEETING. **Talbot.** Speaker and topic TBA. 7 PM, Bayleigh Chase (aka William Hill Manor) Auditorium, 501 Dutchman's Lane, Easton.

Tuesday, April 10

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** "Wildlife Conservation in Tanzania and Kenya. Approaches and Challenges, With Examples From the Spotted-Necked Otter" by Dr. Thomas L Serfass. Dr. Serfass' research focuses on various aspects of carnivore ecology and conservation, including reintroduction projects. 7 PM. Compton Hall, Room TBA, Frostburg State University.

■ Baltimore. Phoenix Pond. Excellent migrant spot in N Baltimore County on NCR Trail. Self-guided walk. Optional add-on to nearby Paper Mill Rd Flats. 8 AM. Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or (text only) 410-967-5896.

MEETING. **Kent.** Speaker and topic TBA. 7:30 PM at Heron Point of Chestertown, off East Campus Ave.

MEETING. **Patuxent/PGAS.** "Playing Dr. Doolittle: Understanding Bird Songs and Social Behavior", presented by *Kim Derrickson*. Sex, Drugs, and Rock n' Roll – Avian Style. Well maybe not the drugs, but more than enough of the other two to make an entertaining evening. Come hear about the amazing lives of our feathered friends. You will be utterly amazed by their complexity. Learn about our local avian virtuoso, the Northern Mockingbird, including why they keep you up at night singing from your chimney. Dr. Derrickson will tell you all you ever wanted to know (and you don't have to be afraid to ask) about Northern Mockingbirds. He will also discuss his various research endeavors attempting to unravel the social lives and singing styles of another local species with a beautiful song, the Wood Thrush, and a Panamanian suboscine, the Dusky Antbird. As these stories unfold you will see how experiences in the field, several completely unexpected, have directed and altered Kim's research efforts. During the presentation we will explore questions such as: Why do mockingbirds have one of the largest vocal repertoires of any bird species? How do birds know how far away a neighbor is by listening? Why are there good Dads and poor Dads in Wood Thrushes when it comes to parental care? And, do Wood Thrushes actually see their eggs? Free and open to the public. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time. College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 2nd Fl, 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park.

Thursday, April 12

MEETING. **Howard.** "From Mountains to Saltmarsh: Rediscovering the MOS Sanctuaries," by *Marcia Watson*. MOS owns nine sanctuaries, spanning the state from Garrett County to Somerset County on the lower Eastern Shore. They are open to the public at no charge every day of the year, and represent a macrocosm of the habitats for birds in Maryland. Marcia will review the history of the sanctuary program, cover some of the challenges

MOS faces in managing the properties and suggest ways interested individuals can become involved. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Saturday, April 14

■ Anne Arundel. Swan Harbor. The grounds offer multiple types of habitat including frontage along the Chesapeake Bay, open farm fields, a small freshwater marsh, manmade water impoundments, some small woodlots and a forested stream valley. Over 250 species of birds have been seen at this site. We will be looking for flycatchers, vireos, breeding warblers, orioles as well as migrating shorebirds. 6:45 AM (half day). Meet at Millersville P&R. Contact Matt Addicks, 442-987-7208 or maddicks13@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Youth Trip to North Point SP. We will walk down the Black Marsh trail to the Bay, looking for late ducks and early migrants, such as Hooded Mergansers and Little Blue Herons as well as the increasingly rare Rusty Blackbird. Afterwards, we will head down to the stone pier to check for other interesting residents and visitors. The walk is free, but there is a \$3 charge to enter the park. 9 AM. Meet at the small parking area on the left, just past the entrance booth. Leader John Robinson, 410-483-6620 or jcrobin@jhmi.edu.

■ Frederick. Hughes Hollow Birds, Wildflowers and Butterflies. A great trip for beginners as well as experienced birders. Contact leaders Pat Caro, 240-651-5651, or Kathy Brown, 301-865-1369, for meeting time and location.

■ Harford. Harford Glen. This preserve offers great opportunities for good spring birding. The woodland trails through rolling hills and some open meadow entice a wide variety of birds. We will begin this tour with sightings from the parking lot and then proceed to survey the triple riparian habitats of Atkisson Reservoir, the faster flowing Winter's Run, and the Plumtree Run tributary. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Glen, west end of Wheel Rd. Leader Phil Powers, birdsinnmd308@gmail.com or 410-679-4116.

 **YMOS.** Lower Eastern Shore early migrant search. We'll bird Nassawango Creek, Elliott Island Rd, and Blackwater NWR. 7 AM (full day). Meet at

Sailwinds Park in Cambridge. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip.

Sunday, April 15

■ **Anne Arundel.** Kinder Farm Park. We will walk on paved and grassy/rocky trails looking for common birds of the park. Listening and learning bird calls will be highlighted. During nesting season, participants can assist in checking bluebird boxes. Though participants can leave at any time, the walk will conclude after two hours with a review and count of birds observed. Canceled for rain. If weather is iffy or for questions, contact leader, 8 AM (2 hrs). Meet in the first parking lot on left after the entry hut. Contact Stacy Epperson, 410-987-7533 or stac.epperson@gmail.com (preferred).

■ **Baltimore.** Cylburn. Casual spring walk for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Rain date April 22. 8:15 AM. Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot. Leader Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com.

■ **Montgomery.** Occoquan Bay NWR. Explore the diverse habitats in this one-square-mile refuge at the confluence of the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers in Woodbridge, VA. A variety of raptors and migratory warblers, vireos, thrushes and flycatchers should be present, and rails and bitterns are possibilities. Reservations required. Limit 25. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at the parking lot in the center of the refuge. Leaders Mike Bowen, 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com, and Gerry Hawkins, 571-277-8406 or maineusa@comcast.net.

■ **Talbot.** Nanticoke WMA. Discover a new area. Expect early migrants and possibly late migrating waterfowl and sparrows along the SE shores of the Nanticoke River. 7 AM. Depart Easton Acme parking lot. Leader Jeff Effinger, 410-443-5016 or jkeffinger55@gmail.com.

Tuesday, April 17

■ **Baltimore.** Phoenix Pond. Excellent migrant spot in N Baltimore County on NCR Trail. Self-

guided walk. Optional add-on to nearby Paper Mill Rd Flats. 8 AM. Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or (text only) 410-967-5896.

Wednesday, April 18

■ **Anne Arundel.** Fort Smallwood Park. The Park consists of approximately 90 acres at the tip of a peninsula where the Patapsco River and Rock Creek meet the Chesapeake Bay. To date 258 species have been identified at this site and it is also home to the annual spring hawk watch. Join us to see late wintering ducks, migrating raptors as well as passerines and woodpeckers, including resident Red-headed Woodpeckers. 8 AM (3 hrs). Meet at the Park. Contact Dominic Nucifora, 443-534-4891 or dnucifora@yahoo.com.

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "Young Voices for the Planet" with *Lynne Cherry*. Lynne Cherry, author/illustrator of 30 award-winning children's books (*The Great Kapok Tree, A River Ran Wild*) is producer/director of the *Young Voices for the Planet* films championing youth solutions to the climate crisis. She will discuss her works, tell the story about how kids saved Maryland's Belt Woods, and show two or three short films from the Young Voices Series. Lynne will have books available for sale and signing. 7 PM. Quiet Waters Park, Blue Heron Center. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

■ **Baltimore.** Fort McHenry. Part of a series of evening bird walks at the Fort and wetland. Telescope can be useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 6 PM (2 hrs). Meet outside of park gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader Joe Supik, 443-417-5015.

MEETING. **Montgomery.** *Mike Hudson* and the "Red Knot". Just in time for the Northward migration, Mike Hudson will be bringing up to speed about the Red Knot story. Doors open at 7 PM, refreshments 7:30 and meeting starts at 8 PM. Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd.

Thursday, April 19

MEETING. *Caroline David Curson*, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon Maryland-D.C. will present "Saving the Chesapeake's Shrinking Marshes". He

will also give an update on Maryland's Important Bird Areas (IBAs). 7:30 PM. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

■ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, April 20

■ **Harford.** Jerusalem Mill. Visit this appealing stretch of the Little Gunpowder River marking Harford County's western border. This area involves some hiking and hills. 7:30 AM. Meet at the parking lot by the mill on Jerusalem Rd. Leader Phil Powers, birdsinmd308@gmail.com or 410-679-4116.

Saturday, April 21

■ **Anne Arundel.** North Point SP. With 1,310 acres of forest, fields, wetlands, and waterfront, this is one of the top birding sites in Baltimore County. We will cover the Black Marsh Trail and the waterfront, as well as others if time permits. It is possible to see rails, herons (including Little Blue and Green) and even bitterns as well as migrating shorebirds. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the first parking lot on the left by the gatehouse. Contact Sue and Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

■ **Baltimore.** Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescope can be useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM. Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754.

■ **Baltimore.** Jug Bay Wetlands, Anne Arundel Co. We expect marsh birds, waterfowl, raptors and plenty of passerines. Easy two mile roundtrip walk. Entrance fee \$6 per car. One hour drive from Baltimore. Contact the leaders in advance if you want to arrange car pools. 9 AM. Leaders Debbie and Lou Taylor, 410-852-9807 or debrataylor11@gmail.com.

■ **Frederick.** Baker Park. Easy walking on paved paths in Frederick's in-town park. Contact leader Bonnie Borsa, 301-695-8214, for meeting time and location.

■ **Frederick.** Spring Migrants. Audubon Society of Central MD Nature Walk. 9-11 AM. Fred Archibald Sanctuary, 6011 Boyers Mill Rd, New Market. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071.

■ **Harford.** Susquehanna SP. An ideal time to enjoy emerging wildflowers, early migrant songbirds, including warblers, and lingering winter visitors. 8:30 AM. Meet at the parking area at the confluence of Deer Creek and the Susquehanna River just north of Rock Run Mill. Leaders Sue Procell, procellmd@gmail.com or 443-417-4919, Eric Vangrin, evangrin@msn.com, and Colleen Webster, cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577.

■ **Howard.** Mt. Pleasant Farm. Earth Day Walk in conjunction with the Howard County Conservancy. Easy walking through the fields of Mt. Pleasant Farm. Tree lines, hedgerows and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. 8 AM (2-3 hrs). Meet at parking lot near the barn. Leader Anthony VanSchoor, tonyvanschoor@gmail.com.

■ **Kent.** Beginner's Bird Walk, Eastern Neck NWR. In honor of Earth Day, we'll explore several of the Refuge's trails and overlooks, looking for a variety of migrants, from raptors to warblers. Noon (2-3 hours). Meet at the Tundra Swan Boardwalk. If you have questions, please contact leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ **Montgomery.** Blue Mash Nature Trail/Oaks Landfill. Interesting walk at these adjacent and surprisingly birdy sites. Waterproof boots helpful at Blue Mash, but not needed at the landfill. Call leader for reservations and directions. Trip is limited to 8-10 participants. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at Zion Road parking lot. Leader Mark England, 240-375-4500 (cell) or markengland@canamcontractors.com.

■ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. No reservations needed. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. For

more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ Tri-county. Nassawango Preserve for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, migrating passerines and newly arrived summer residents. Bring drinks, lunch and snacks. 7:30 AM. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot. For more information, contact leaders Betty Pitney, 410-543-1853, or Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

Sunday, April 22

■ Baltimore. Jerusalem Mill Area, Gunpowder Falls SP. New trip for BBC. An easy walk including open fields, edge habitat and wooded trails along the Little Gunpowder River. Expect to see migrant and resident birds including warblers, thrushes, and raptors. Trails can be muddy, boots advisable. 8 AM. Leaders Matt Lince, mdlince@comcast.net, and John Landers, dado1bw@aol.com.

■ Montgomery. Hugh Mahanes Presidents' Walk at Hughes Hollow. Participation of all former Chapter Presidents is encouraged, and everyone is welcome. This is a wonderful chance for newer birders to be in the field with "old hands" who enjoy sharing what they know. With a variety of habitats, Hughes Hollow is always interesting in spring. We will look for water birds on the move and early songbird migrants. Possible birds include Purple Finches, Blue-winged Teal, swallows, and maybe even an American Bittern. 7 AM (half day). Meet at the Hughes Hollow parking lot. For more information, directions, and reservations (required), contact leader Clive Harris, cliveharris@yahoo.com.

■ Talbot. Annual spring trip to the Pocomoke Swamp. We will bird the edge of the Nassawango Creek Preserve along Johnson Rd in search of migrant and resident songbirds with a focus on wood warblers. This location yields an average of 14-17 species of warblers, as well as vireos, tanagers, Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks and Red-shouldered Hawk. Bring lunch, drinks and snacks. 6:30 AM (full day). Leader Charles Hopkins, 443-786-6332.

■ Washington. Sky Meadows SP, VA. 6:30 AM (half day). Leave from the DMV parking lot. Contact Anna Hutzell, amp81856@aol.com or

301-797-8454.

Monday, April 23

MEETING. **Tri-county.** "Rediscovering the MOS Sanctuaries: From Mountains to Saltmarsh" presented by Marcia Watson. 7 PM. MAC Education Center off Snow Hill Rd, Salisbury. For more information, contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

Tuesday, April 24

■ Baltimore. Lake Roland. First in a series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. 8 AM. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with coordinator if weather is extreme (rain, wind). Coordinator Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Phoenix Pond. Excellent migrant spot in N Baltimore County on NCR Trail. Self-guided walk. Optional add-on to nearby Paper Mill Rd Flats. 8 AM. Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or (text only) 410-967-5896.

■ Washington. Mills Park, Hagerstown. Co-sponsored with Hagerstown Parks and Recreation. 8 AM (2 hrs). Meet at the Mills Park lot accessed from Belview Ave. Contact Anna Hutzell, 301-797-8454 or amp8185@aol.com.

MEETING. **Washington.** Program TBA. 7 PM. Mt. Aetna Nature Ctr, 21905 Mt. Aetna Rd, Hagerstown.

Wednesday, April 25

■ Anne Arundel. Cromwell Valley Park – Willow Grove Farm. The 460-acre park is a stream valley park comprised of pasture, cultivated gardens, open fields, woods, hedgerows, orchards and wooded piedmont hills. Many species of raptors, songbirds, and migrants can be seen. Minebank Run is especially good for many different kinds of warblers. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Park. Contact Kevin Graff, 410-967-5896 or keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Fort McHenry. Part of a series of evening bird walks at the Fort and wetland. Telescope can be useful. Cancelled in bad weather.

6 PM (2 hrs). Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader Joe Supik, 443-417-5015.

Friday-Sunday, April 27-29

RETREAT. Birding 101. Weekend Retreat at Hashawha Environmental Center, April 27-29-2 nights, 5 meals. \$155. For more information & to register, please call Carroll County Recreations & Parks: 410-386-2103.

Saturday, April 28

■ Allegany/Garrett. Elk Ridge Nature Preserve or New Germany SP. We will look for birds and native plants. 8:15 AM. Carpool leaves from Ollies in Cumberland. 9 AM. Meet at New Germany SP. Leader Liz McDowell. Contact Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

■ Anne Arundel. Howard County Conservancy and Mariottsville Road Railway path. Walk through the fields of Mt. Pleasant Farm looking for a variety of sparrows and other species. Good chance to see meadowlarks and warblers. After this hike we will travel by car to Mariottsville Rd and walk the railroad path along the Patapsco SP rapids. Warblers, including waterthrushes, abound! 8 AM (half day). Meet at Mt. Pleasant Farm on Rt 99. Contact Tony VanSchorr, 443-538-8669 or tonyvanschoor@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Smith Island. All-day memory making trip to see waders and other migrants on the island, plus water birds during boat rides. Bring lunch, snacks, beverages and extra cash. The general store on the island might be open, offering great sandwiches, drinks and snacks, cash only. Rental bikes and golf carts available on the island. As a precaution, motion sickness medicine is advised (take it an hour before the boat ride). This trip requires RSVP by Wed Apr 25 and \$40-\$50 per person (depending on attendance), paid when boarding. NO CHECKS OR CREDIT CARDS. Limited to 40 passengers. If we don't have enough to sail, the trip will be cancelled. 7 AM. Car pool from Nursery Rd P&R. 9 AM. Meet at the Point Lookout boat dock. The boat leaves 9:30 AM sharp, arrives at the island about 11 AM. Contact Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or 410-976-5896 (text only) for reservations. Check again by Fri Apr 27 to learn if the trip is a go or no

go.

■ Carroll. McKeldin Area of Patapsco Valley SP. Watch Bob work his magic. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the P&R on Rt 32 just south of Rt 26 in Eldersburg. For more details, contact Bob Ringler, 410-303-2792.

■ Frederick. Native Plant Sale of the Audubon Society of Central Maryland, held at the Audrey Carroll Sanctuary, 13030 Old Annapolis Rd, Mt Airy. Please support this sale at one of our favorite and most productive birding hot spots. More information can be found at www.centralmdaudubon.org.

■ Howard. Mt. Pleasant Beginners' Walk. Gentle ramble around rough pastures, brushy thickets and stream valleys. Early migrants arriving and resident birds starting to nest. Good chance for beginners to learn bird ID and habits before the Spring migration brings in a profusion (= confusion) of later migrants. Facilities available. 8 AM (2-3 hrs). Meet in parking lot. Leaders John Harris, jaybee.harris@gmail.com or 240-755-0183, and Robin Todd, totnesman@aol.com or 410-491-5333.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Fort Smallwood Hawk Watch. Observe the spring raptor migration spectacle. Data for the spring raptor migration are compiled annually by a team of counters organized by Sue Ricciardi from the Anne Arundel Bird Club. The number of raptors counted in a spring season ranges from 9,000 to 12,500, and fifteen different raptor species are usually observed, though not all may be present on any one day. Migration of non-raptor species is also noteworthy, especially waterfowl, swallows, and Blue Jays and other passerines. About 260 species of birds have been observed at the Park. Bring folding chair, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, drinks and snacks. Daily parking fee \$6 per vehicle. 8:30 AM. Meet at the Bowie P&R to carpool. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net, for more information.

■ Talbot. Smith Island excursion. Travel across Tangier Sound and make stops on Smith Island at the villages of Ewell and Tylerton to bird and take in the sights. Always a nice mix of waterbirds, herons, egrets, Brown Pelicans and a few migrant

songbirds. Arrangements through Delmarva Birding Weekend. Cost to be determined, includes crab cake lunch. 8 AM (full day). Depart Somer's Cove Marina in Crisfield. Directions and more information will follow via our listserv. Leader Terry Allen, 410-829-5840 or pattyallen10@hotmail.com.

Sunday, April 29

■ **Baltimore.** Soldiers Delight. We will cover 1.5-2 miles of level, but sometimes rocky terrain. Expect a wide variety of migrating songbirds. Trails can be muddy if the weather has been wet. 8 AM. Meet at the Overlook on Deer Park Rd. Leader Sarah Luttrell, luttrell.sa@gmail.com or 614-352-7718.

■ **Baltimore.** Cylburn. Casual spring walk for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. 8:15 AM. Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot. Leader Peter Lev, 410-823-2962 or plev@comcast.net.

■ **Frederick.** Thompson WMA (near Front Royal, VA). Warblers and wildflowers! All-day trip. Pre-registration necessary. Contact leader Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690, for details.

■ **Talbot.** Hope House Farm. This property provides a mixed habitat of forest, forest edge, fields and tidal waterfront. We will be looking for new spring arrivals including thrush species, flycatchers and orioles. Numerous sparrows should be present, and the property provides nesting sites for a full range of woodpeckers. Lingering waterfowl may be seen on the broad reach of water that can be viewed. Raptors may also be around, especially nesting Bald Eagles and Osprey. 7 AM. Depart Easton Acme parking lot. Leaders Ron Ketter, rketter@verizon.net, and Les Roslund, 410-763-8169. Breakfast hosts Carolyn and Les Roslund.

■ **YMOS.** Western Shore migrant search. Preparation for the World Series of Birding. We will cover Susquehanna SP for warblers and early migrants, including possible Cerulean Warbler, Swan Harbor for King Rail, Sora, and Least Bittern, Patapsco Valley SP for warblers, make several stops along the C & O Canal and end at McKee-

Beslers WMA, 7 AM (full day). Meet at Susquehanna SP. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip.

Tuesday, May 1

■ **Baltimore.** Lake Roland. Weekly walk following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. 8 AM. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to park). Check with coordinator if weather is extreme (rain, wind). Coordinator Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net.

■ **Baltimore.** Phoenix Pond. Excellent migrant spot in N Baltimore County on NCR Trail. Self-guided walk. Optional add-on to nearby Paper Mill Rd Flats. 8 AM. Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or (text only) 410-967-5896.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Marcia Watson on "From Mountains to Saltmarsh: Rediscovering the MOS Sanctuaries." MOS, the Maryland Ornithological Society, owns and manages ten bird sanctuaries spread throughout the state of Maryland. Yet many birders are unaware of these properties. Marcia Watson will present illustrated profiles of the sanctuaries, discussing the birds and habitats found in each one. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, lecture starts about 7:20 PM. Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum.

Wednesday, May 2

■ **Anne Arundel.** Susquehanna SP. Hike along the river to find Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers and many spring migrants. One of the best spring warbler sites in Maryland with as many as 24 warbler species in a single day! We will drive to the picnic area for lunch and then hike some of the trails there. Pack lunch, snacks, and water. Bring sun block and bug spray. 7 AM - 2 PM. Meet at Severna Park P&R. Contact Kevin Graff, 410-967-5896 or keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

■ **Baltimore.** Fort McHenry. Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys at the Fort and wetland. Telescope can be useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM (half day). Meet outside of park gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

■ Baltimore. Fort McHenry. Part of a series of evening bird walks at the Fort and wetland. Telescope can be useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 6 PM (2 hrs). Meet outside of park gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader Joe Supik, 443-417-5015.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Your MOS Sanctuaries" by Marcia Watson. 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Center, Westminster. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.

■ Tri-county. Schumaker Pond for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, migrating passerines and newly arrived summer residents. This will be a short walk around the two sections of Schumaker Pond. 7:30 AM (2 hrs). Meet at Ward Museum parking lot. For more information, contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

Thursday, May 3

MEETING. **Frederick.** Mike Hudson will speak on the incredible migration of "Red Knots." 7 PM. The Lodge at Homewood, 500 Pearson Circle, Frederick. Contact Don Hambright, 301-676-0635.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net, for more information.

Friday-Sunday, May 4-6

■ Allegany/Garrett. Garrett County Bird Fest with Deep Creek SP. All MOS members are invited to participate. Many of the trips planned will be the same as the trips to birding hot spots at last year's MOS conference. Included are trips to Jennings Randolph Reservoir, Lost Land Run, The Glades etc. Check out the Deep Creek Lake Discovery Center website for schedules and registration, www.discoverycenterdcl.com.

Friday, May 4

■ Montgomery. Birding by Ear at Hughes Hollow. Tune up your ears as we listen for and learn to identify the songs and calls of migrant and local breeding birds. The trip will be geared to new birders but all levels are welcome. Limit 10.

Reservations required. 7 AM. Meet at the Hughes Hollow parking lot. For more information email leader Paul Woodward, grackling@ATT.NET.

Saturday, May 5

■ Anne Arundel. Swan Creek. The number one birding spot in the county, this trip will include a variety of habitats such as upland woods, wetlands, beach and dredge cells. Many shorebirds and waterfowl, also migrating warblers and other passerines. Path has coarse stones and rocks; therefore, hiking boots are encouraged. Scopes are helpful. 7 AM (half day). Meet at Swan Creek. Park on the right side along the fence. There will be a sign in at the start of the walk. Contact Stan Arnold, 410-428-7567 or thrushost@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Susquehanna SP Rock Run Area. Trip to the river in Harford County for resident Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers and a collection of spring migrants. This is one of the best spring warbler watching sites in Maryland; 18 to 24 warbler species possible in a single day. Bring a picnic lunch for the wrap-up of what could be an excellent morning of birding. Optional extension after lunch to Swan Harbor Farm Park for shorebirds, herons, rails and bitterns. Contact the leaders in advance for possible carpooling. 7:30 AM. Meet at the lot at the end of Rock Run Rd, next to the old mill building. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

■ Cecil. Fair Hill NRMA. Fair Hill has designated approximately 100 acres of grassland as preserved habitat for ground-nesting birds. This unique program will benefit Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Northern Bobwhite, bird species whose numbers are in decline. 7 AM. Meet at the parking lot on Appleton Rd. Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

■ Frederick. Little Bennett Park. Look for migrants and our returning warm weather feathered friends. Contact leader Deb Calhoun, 410-215-3268, for meeting time and location. Lunch/brunch will follow at Deb's house.

■ Harford. TENTH Annual Epic Birding Challenge at Susquehanna SP. The previous competitions have been well-attended and a lot of fun. Birders

of all skill levels are welcome. The rules allow all to contribute to the fun and success of each team. 6:30 AM. Meet at the Rock Run Mill for team selections and rules review. Counting will run from 6:45 - 11:30 AM. A rally celebration will be held at 12 noon at the Laurrapin Grille, 209 N Washington St, Havre de Grace. Family members and others are welcome to join the contestants for the celebration. Coordinator Tom Gibson, gibsonlld@aol.com or 410-734-4135.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at E end of Lemon's Br Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ Washington. Hagerstown City Park. 8 AM. Meet at the Hager House parking lot. Contact Larry Zaleski at 301-491-2866 or larry.zaleski@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 6

■ Anne Arundel. Foreman's Branch Bird Banding Station (previously known as Chino Farms). This is the only major migratory bird banding station on the Eastern Shore. The small group of banders will demonstrate how they ensnare the birds in the nets, carefully extract them, transport them back to the banding shed, note the sex, age, and weight, attach bands and release them back into the wild. We will get to observe both resident and migratory birds on the way to their summer grounds, see them up close and learn about them in a fun and exciting way. Trip limited to 15 people, an RSVP is required and carpooling is necessary. Porta-potty facilities only on site. 6:45 AM (half day). Meet at Bay 50 shopping center. Contact Dianne Westbrook, 443-618-9421 or edwestbrook1@gmail.com.

■ Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. We will walk on paved and grassy/rocky trails looking for common birds of the park. Listening and learning bird calls will be highlighted. During nesting season, participants can assist in checking bluebird boxes. Though participants can leave at any time, the walk will conclude after two hours with a review and count of birds observed. Canceled for rain. If weather is iffy or for questions, contact leader. 8 AM (2 hrs). Meet in the first parking lot on left after the entry hut.

Contact Stacy Epperson, 410-987-7533 or stac.epperson@gmail.com (preferred).

■ Baltimore. Oregon Ridge and Agricultural Center. Oregon Ridge is a fine spot for warblers in early May, with some birds on territory and others passing through. The Center for Maryland Agriculture, just across the street, is great for meadow birds. Grasshopper Sparrow (breeds), Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink and Savannah Sparrow are all possible. 8 AM. Meet at the Oregon Ridge Nature Ctr, 13555 Beaver Dam Rd. Leader Simon Best, simonrabest@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Chimney Swifts at Dusk. Join the BBC Swift Watch Team as Chimney Swifts enter a favorite chimney at sunset. Since the swifts routinely change migration roosting chimneys, this year's spring site will be posted on the BBC website (baltimorebirdclub.org/) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/382565775136349/) by Friday, May 4. 7:45 - 8:30 PM. Come half an hour early if the weather is cloudy or gray. Directions will be provided. Cancelled if raining. Leader Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net.

■ Cecil. Field Trip Birding 101 at Turkey Point. Join a ranger and a representative of the Cecil County Birding Club on a hike to the Turkey Point Lighthouse, a distance of about two miles, looking for local and migrating songbirds along the way. Learn more about birding with and without binoculars, examining bird size, silhouette, song and habitat. The pace will be leisurely. Most of the walking is on a gravel road with good footing, but there are a few hilly sections. Wear comfortable shoes/boots for walking. Bring binoculars if you have them. Extras will be available on loan. Call Elk Neck State Park at 410-287-5333 for more details and to make your reservation. 8 AM (half-day). Meet at the Turkey Point Parking Lot. Leader TBD and Elk Neck park staff.

■ Frederick. Fred Archibald May Count. 6 AM. Meet at the Sanctuary, **6011 Boyers Mill Rd, New Market.** Coordinator David Smith, 410-549-7082.

■ Howard. Western Regional Park. Moderate walking along field edges and woodland trails.

Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and flyovers. Facilities available.

8 AM. (2-3 hrs). Meet at Carr's Mill Rd parking lot. Leader David Sandler, detour65@gmail.com or 410-370-0747.

■ Kent. Millington NRMA. Migrating warblers should still be on the move while many breeding specialties will have established territories in Kent County's most extensive forest. Half day. Meet at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ Montgomery. Izaak Walton League Conservation Farm. Once again, the B-CC Chapter is generously providing us access to this large private property south of Poolesville. Woods, hedgerows, streams, fields, and ponds provide a wide range of bird habitats, and migration should be well underway. Reservations required, limit 12. 7 AM (half day). Meet at the League's Chapterhouse. For reservations and more information, contact leader Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net or 240-515-4517.

■ Talbot. Susquehanna SP. Prime migration location; possibly 12-15 warbler species (including Cerulean, Hooded and Kentucky), vireos, thrushes, and flycatchers. We will not be back until mid-afternoon thus lunch or snacks should be taken. Facilities are available at a very nice picnic location in the park. 6:30 AM. Leader Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009 or vdesanctis@verizon.net.

POSTMASTER: TIME-DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE EXPEDITE!

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Anyone is welcome to contribute articles, photos,
or ideas that would be of interest to other
birders.

Copy may be e-mailed to Richard Donham by
March 25, 2017 for the May/June 2018 issue.

Illustrations pp. 1,4 ©M. Suzanne Probst

**MOS Chapter Web Sites (to be consulted for
the most up-to-date trip/meeting info)**

Allegany/Garrett: westernmdbirding.com/
Anne Arundel: aabirdclub.org/
Baltimore: baltimorebirdclub.org/
Caroline: carolinebirdclubmos.blogspot.com/
Carroll: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/carroll.html
Cecil: cecilbirds.org/
Frederick: frederickbirdclub.org/
Harford: harfordbirdclub.org/
Howard: howardbirds.org/
Kent: kentcounty.com/recreation/birding/birding-club
Montgomery: montgomerybirdclub.org/
Patuxent/PG: patuxentbirdclub.org/
Talbot: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/talbot.html
Tri-County (Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset):
tricountybirdclub.weebly.com/
Washington: washingtoncountybirdclub.webs.com/
YMOS: ymos.org/

The Maryland Yellowthroat

MAY/JUNE 2018

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President's Corner

Barbara Johnson

 My term as Maryland Ornithological Society president comes to a close August 31, and your next President's Corner will be penned by incoming President Robin Todd. Writing the last of these columns is bittersweet; ideas haven't reliably popped into focus between deadlines, but I've benefited from the challenge of writing to the level of the MOS readership! Working with Editor Richard Donham has been a sheer delight, and I start by thanking him for his encouragement, humor, patience and editing finesse.

My view of the organization has evolved enormously since I entered the position nearly two years ago. I confess part of me imagined that MOS was a bit hidebound, and I was sensitive to the grumblings that MOS was just a group for tickers who burn gas while beefing up their life lists. It seemed to me that MOS, like many volunteer organizations, was overly-dependent on a small group of volunteers to do most of the heavy lifting. If Chapter members were surging at opportunities to serve on a state level, I wasn't aware of it, and if a key volunteer left her/his MOS position, I fretted about whether we would ever find a worthy replacement.

I've come to see MOS not as an institution, but as a body of energetic, imaginative, well-informed people with an abundance of generous and astonishingly diverse expertise to go with their love for and commitment to birdlife. Yes, we have our committed long-serving members in key positions (and thank goodness!) but we've been fortunate to see a steady stream of enthusiastic and competent new folks stepping up as additions and replacements.

The last two years have taught me to drop my image of MOS as stuck in the past. Our members rise far above simply consuming wildlife

experiences. They devote their resources, time, energy and funds to bird and wildlife conservation in myriad ways. And to accede to the image of MOS as stodgy tickers is not only counterproductive, it's flat-out wrong. Just when I've expected "we've always done it this way" in response to some big problem or call for change, the issue is met with receptive and creative flexibility. I now trust that when challenges arise, there will be hands and minds--remarkably belonging to just the right people--joining to meet them.

I've been inspired, and frankly staggered, by the volunteer energy that MOS members exert as individuals and as a collective. One of my great challenges as president has been simply trying to keep up with it all. At the Chapter level, marvelous projects, community service and outreach arise from the marriage of local needs and members' ideas and enthusiasm. At the state level, a truly head-spinning amount of work is generated by YMOS, *Maryland Birdlife*, *The Maryland Yellowthroat*, and the Committees of

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Records, Conservation, Sanctuary, Awards, Scholarship, Convention, Long-Range Planning, Research, and Investment. Working with our excellent Board, including Chapter Presidents, State Directors and committee members has been most rewarding.

Many long-term MOS members continue to provide indispensable insight and "the long view". Among these I especially thank Dotty Mumford, Jan Reese, Sue Riccardi, Bruce Beehler, Paul Zucker, Maureen Harvey and Paul Bystrak. Each has generously made my work clearer and more effective. I am forever grateful to my fellow Executive Council members: Vice-President Robin Todd, Secretary Maryanne Dolan, Treasurer Dave Webb, and Past-President Tom Strikwerda (upon whom I called a LOT). A more sensible, devoted, astute and amiable group would be tough to find.

I thank all of those folks and the rest of you MOS members who have helped, inspired, and encouraged me, given me ideas and criticism, and who have reinforced in me what a living treasure we have in the Maryland Ornithological Society. It has been one of the great gifts of my life to serve.

One parting thought: during the financial report at our annual meeting in February, something struck me as remiss. I wondered: why doesn't MOS have a special fund for "Conservation", as it has for Education, Research, Sanctuary, Scholarship, and Youth? Yes, we have a Conservation Committee, but since our Conservation Committee's primary work has been advocacy, it has a small budget (\$50.00 in this year's budget). On the other hand, MOS board has voted twice to donate \$25,000 from its discretionary fund to support the formation and development of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership. So, even though MOS has no ongoing budgetary commitment to allocate monetary resources to active conservation projects, it has put real monetary muscle behind good programs, such as those that MBCP is developing. I believe that MOS has a responsibility, now more than ever, not only to appreciate birds, and not only advocate for bird and habitat conservation, but to put our money behind it, remembering that 143 of our Maryland birds are regarded as "species of greatest conservation need". We've been able to build up our other funds through the generosity of members. So I appeal to those of us who are able,

please donate to the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership through MOS, and please--remember to consider MOS during your giving and estate planning.



Birdathon 2018 Results

18 YMOS Students with 6 adult drivers covered the Eastern Shore from Ocean City to Kent Island this past Saturday and Sunday as a part of the annual YMOS Birdathon. Strong winds earlier in the week clearly kept potential migrants down, and wind and rain Saturday afternoon kept birds somewhat hidden; however, the group was still able to find 127 species. With 8 of their 100 Must See Species missed, their overall score/total drops down to 119 species. Rails were noticeably absent from all areas, but waterfowl were cooperative. Noteworthy finds included Red-necked Grebe, White-winged Scoter, 2 Merlin flyovers, an Iceland Gull, and both Vesper and Clay-colored Sparrow. Saturday ended shortly after sunset as the students watched an amazing display of 10 Short-eared Owls working the marshes near Shorter's Wharf in Dorchester County.

The students represented Garrett, Frederick, Montgomery, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Queen Anne's, and Dorchester Counties as well as Baltimore City and Delaware. Beginning at 4 AM Saturday, the group banded until 5 PM Sunday with the latter part of Sunday turning into a "Where are the Catbirds Hiding?" event. The students were amazingly focused, never veering off task until 5:00 PM Sunday, and demonstrated exemplary behavior throughout, being both respectful of others they encountered as well as making every

attempt to minimize any negative impacts on the birdlife of the area. No auditory calls were used, and students avoided getting any closer than necessary to species being observed.

Special thanks go out to the parents who drove, as they patiently transported the troops around on minimal sleep. The funds raised will be used to support the 4 YMOS teams heading to the World Series of Birding in May and to purchase extra optics and guides for youth birding. We send a huge YMOS "Thank You!" out to all who pledged funds for the Birdathon. Your support of youth birding helps insure a good future for the activity that so many of us love.



Birdathon Participants. Photo Credit: Mike Irons

2018 Annual MOS Convention and Business Meeting

Ocean City, Maryland, 2-4 February
By Fred Fallon

Attendance at this year's MOS Convention came to 180, continuing what we hope is an upward trend beginning with last year's convention. Some innovations this year may have been part of the reason; the unusual winter convention date was also probably a good draw. The first-time host was the Holiday Inn "Oceanfront" at 67th St, where rooms and facilities were housed together. As in past conventions, the Mother Nature's Store, set up conveniently across the hall from the convention area, and offered a nice selection of

birding books, optics, and supplies, with a window view through which to try binos and scopes.

Convention preparation began with a brochure that was nicely illustrated again by Diane Ford with a drawing of Long-tailed Ducks. This year's winning pin design featured a Surf Scoter in flight drawn by Gail Regester of the Kent County chapter. Mike Bowen managed the solicitation of entries and their submission to judges and arranged the ordering and delivery of pins for convention attendees.

A first for MOS conventions was our invitation to the Delaware Ornithological Society (DOS) to participate jointly in convention events. While only a few DOS members signed up this year on rather short notice, two DOS birders did lead four of our field trips, and DOS has indicated they would like to be part of future MOS conventions.

Field trips were ably organized by Peter Hanan, who had to work harder than last year, receiving no help, it must be said, from the convention chair (myself) this time. A total of 27 trip leaders led 43 field trips to popular destinations. A special feature was a series of three near-shore pelagic trips on the "Morning Star" captained by skipper "Monty" Hawkins, as arranged through Jim Rapp of Delmarva Adventures and manned by our own spotters. So well-received were these we had to add a fourth for Sunday afternoon, though that unfortunately had to be cancelled due to high winds. Also a special treat were two trips into the restricted ORV zone, made possible by Bill Huislander of the National Park Service with special NPS vehicles. Mark Hofman led a Worcester Listers' trip, while Bob Ringler led a follow-up trip on Sunday AM to try for good birds seen on earlier trips. At Sunday lunch Bob went through the traditional tally of species, which came to 128. While no alcids were seen by us at the Ocean City inlet as hoped, a Razorbill was well seen on the trip to Indian River inlet.

Dr. Peter Marra, Director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, was our keynote speaker. His work on the yearly life cycle of birds uncovered the inconvenient truth that free-ranging house cats are a much greater cause of mortality to birds – and many other small animals – than had hitherto been estimated. Besides their impact on wildlife, cats are also disease vectors. Especially

alarming are recent findings concerning *Toxoplasmosis*, with which outdoor cats are often infected. When the parasite enters a secondary host prey species it travels to the brain and alters the host's behavior so as to make it more susceptible to predation by cats. Now it has been found that even humans infected by the parasite are at increased risk of disturbed brain function. But these concerns are met with denial by feral cat advocates and too often by local governments afraid of antagonizing them. Dr Marra described the interesting new concept of "cations" - patio-like additions open to the outdoors but completely screened in - to meet responsible cat owners' wishes to let their pets experience the outdoors without endangering native wildlife or contracting disease. After his talk Dr Marra signed copies of his book "Cat Wars", in which the points made in his talk are amplified at greater length and very compellingly - must reading for anyone fighting against the wave of legalizing "TNR" and feral cat feeding stations. His was the first address newly designated as the "Chandler Robbins Annual Keynote Address".

Three additional speakers presented seminars during Friday and Saturday afternoon. Matt Hafner gave an overview of more advanced ways to use eBird; Wayne Bell covered the forest ecology of the Eastern Shore as impacted in colonial and pre-colonial times. Dave Ziolkowski, scheduled to speak on the New Taxonomy, was suddenly called away as his wife was about to give birth. Fortunately, Dave Brinker of DNR stepped in on short notice with an exciting account of "Project SNOWstorm", tracking Snowy Owls during their recent invasion. Despite competing with scheduled field trips all of these presentations were well attended and highly rated in the convention evaluations.

Also setting a record for numbers were the 8 research posters presented (mostly) by students at Salisbury University. Some of their research is supported by MOS research grants, or by Project SNOWstorm, or by the fledgling Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership, led by Chris Eberley, now taking flight.

Besides the Dr Marra's book-signing, Friday and Saturday also saw book-signings by 4 additional authors - Smithsonian researcher Dr Bruce Beehler's "Lost Worlds" on tropical rain-forests and "North on the Wind"; Salisbury University's Dr

Terra Ruark Gorrow's photo-journals "Inside an Eagle's Nest" and "Mr President" (an eagle nesting in DC); childrens' book author-illustrator Lynn Cherry's "Flute's Journey" and video "Young Voices for the Planet"; and Margaret Barker's "Feeding Wild Birds in America".

Making a come-back after a long hiatus was the members' photo contest. Prints were entered onto poster boards with the help of Kathy Brown and Barbara Johnson, entrants' names remaining covered until after judging was completed. There were so many entries that the event was as much an exhibit of spectacular bird photography as it was a contest. Even so, prize (gift certificates to B&H Photo) winners Evelyn Ralston, Wade Stephen, and Mike Bowen were especially recognized with gift certificates to B&H Photo.

With so much going on at once - research posters attended by their authors, book signings, photo exhibits, and the return of several popular members after long absences - all lubricated by beer and wine, the Saturday afternoon wine & cheese social took on a synergy of its own that was hard to break up for dinner.

During the dinner that followed, a silent raffle to benefit the Sanctuary Fund took place. The raffle prize, a pair of Delta Airline tickets to a destination of choice, was won by Convention Field Trip Chair, Peter Hanan, as deserving a winner as anyone could be, considering. Designed by Sanctuary chair Dominic Nucifora, members could submit their names and donations in envelopes provided at each table; these were collected and added to the list of pledges made previously, and the winner drawn randomly from the combined list. The proceeds go towards defraying the purchase of the inholding at Irish Grove. An additional amount of ~ \$1,000 was raised just from the evening's portion of the raffle.

The annual Business meeting was held after Saturday's dinner. As in previous meetings Dave Webb presented the society's finances with a lively illustrated report. Kurt Schwarz reviewed the many accomplishments of the Conservation Committee. Dominic Nucifora reviewed those of the Sanctuary Committee, especially the acquisition of two new parcels - our new Red Run Sanctuary in Garrett County, donated by the

children of Chan and Eleanor Robbins, and the former inholding at Irish Grove.

Elections were held for Society officers for the coming business year, beginning Sep 1 - current VP Robin was elected as President, John McKitterick was elected as VP (and heir presumptive); incumbents Treasurer Dave Webb and Secretary Maryanne Dolan continue in office; Barbara Johnson will be Past President.

Several awards were presented for service to MOS: an Exceptional Service Award to John Christy for his work as MOS webmaster; an Exceptional Achievement Award to Richard Donham for his years as Editor of *The Maryland Yellowthroat*; a Valued Service Award to Marty Crouse for chairing the Membership Committee; a Special Achievement Award to Joan Cwi for developing the new MD/DC Birding Guide; an Exceptional Service Award to Barbara Johnson for leading the MOS from 2016 to 2018; a Conservationist of the Year Award to Colin Rees for chairing the Long-range Planning Committee and for developing the Steering Committee of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership; a Distinguished Service Award to Jan Reese for his work in conserving and preserving the Mill Creek Sanctuary; and a Certificate of Appreciation to Deb Wade for assisting in the acquisition of the inholding now designated as the Chandler and Eleanor Robbins Tract, mentioned above, at the Irish Grove Sanctuary. Chet Anderson, Henry Armistead, Mike Bowen, John Cullom, David H. Holmes, and Margaret Markham were recognized as 50-year members. Some of these must have joined MOS when quite young, by the looks of them even now!

All-in-all, a memorable Annual Convention---good birds, good conversations, good friends. I hope to see you in 2019!



New Website for MOS!

The MOS website will have a new look! By the time you read this (or soon thereafter) we hope the new site will be online, with the same URL as the old. A new design has been on the MOS Board "To-Do"

list for years. A committee was finally formed several years ago to solicit ideas and features for the site. John Christy, current Webmaster, provided advice and encouragement. Our goals were several: a more attractive website for a better "face" for MOS, a more easily maintained website so information can be kept up-to-date, a site that uses advanced features such as a calendar, conference and meeting registration, and member portal. Overall, we wanted to better highlight the great things MOS is doing and attract adult and young birders to MOS, as well as be a useful tool for all MOS members and chapters.

We hope you like the website and find it useful. Please let us know if you can't find something you miss seeing from the old website; perhaps it was lost in the shuffle or we didn't know anyone still used the information. The update was long overdue and a monumental undertaking. Understandably, not everything that was on the old website was transferred if the committee felt it was outdated or not maintained. All material was archived, however, so, in theory, we should be able to find what you're looking for. And if you have suggestions for further improving the website, please communicate that to the webmaster.

The website prominently features photographs from MOS members. If you'd like to contribute your photos please contact the webmaster for guidelines. Whether or not your photos are used will depend on how many submissions we receive, quality, composition, resolution, ease of performing the website update, and webmaster's time. All photos will be credited to the photographer. We request that all photos be taken in Maryland. Check out the new MOS website at www.mdbirds.org!

Tom Strikwerda, Chair
The Website Committee





ANNE ARUNDEL

Diane and I explored Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, Elephant Island and several places in Antarctica last November and December for 28 days. Highlights were seeing fledglings and parents of Magellanic Woodpeckers in Ushuaia, visiting Magellanic, Rockhopper and Gentoo Penguin colonies in the Falkland Islands, walking around the edges of a massive King Penguin colony (90,000) in South Georgia, catching glimpses of Macaroni Penguins from a Zodiac boat off Elephant Island, and enjoying an Adele Penguin colony at Brown Bluffs, Antarctica and braving a snowstorm to watch Chin Strap Penguins displaying in their rocky colony. Twenty days at sea provided lots of pelagic birding with massive Wandering, Royal and Black browed Albatrosses combined with a variety of prions, petrels and Storm petrels. We also saw lots of seals- leopard, crabeater, Weddell and fur seals and lots of whales and dolphins- fin, humpbacked, and killer whales. If you have the stamina for being at sea for a long time in very rough waters, frigid temperatures, adiabatic winds, and lots of snow shoeing, you'll have a great experience seeing one of the wildest regions in the world.

Larry & Diane Zoller



Gentoo Penguin, photo by Larry Zoller

A very special birthday present

My friend Lisa & I (*Kathie Lambert*) were on our way to Ocean City for a sewing retreat. The Jeep was jam packed with sewing gear. I always squirrel away my binoculars and scope for any birds that I may find in the area. Lisa's birthday was just a few days before the retreat and I always struggle to find a meaningful birthday present. She is not a birder, but loves owls and claims she never gets to see any. I had been paying attention to the daily eBird reports for Snowy Owls in the area. Even after the huge wind storm, the Hooper's Island and Assateague birds were still being seen. Figured I'd stop by Hooper's Island first. Found the bird by finding another birder who got us on the hunkered down owl. After a while Lisa was starting to turn blue so we left. I continued down the road and turned around. On the way back, the other birder flagged me down as the owl had become much more active. Lisa got to see the Snowy Owl put on a preening show. She was thrilled and said it was the best birthday present ever.

Kathie Lambert

The Anne Arundel Bird Club is finishing its second season of splitting its meetings between two county parks, Quiet Waters Park and Kinder Farm Park. These two venues, 20 miles apart, make the meetings accessible to more county residents (if not all at the same time!) The AABC had met for several years as guests of the Friends of Quiet Waters Park at the Blue Heron Center, but last year the Center was closed for repairs for a few months. The Friends of Kinder Farm Park invited the Club to meet in its Visitor Center during that

time. It was such a successful arrangement that AABC scheduled at both venues for a second year. In exchange for the welcome, AABC gives a modest donation, and leads monthly trips for the public at both parks. AABC members *Alan and Sue Young*, and *Jim Collatz* compiled current bird checklists for Kinder Farm Park and Quiet Waters Park, respectively, which are available in both Visitor Centers.

In early March, I traveled with my husband *Barry* to Tucson for a trip only partly devoted to birding. The highlight was a sojourn on March 7 to Patagonia, a town of 878 souls an hour south of Tucson. With two birding friends from Oregon, we made the drive through the beautiful Coronado State Forest. Our first stop was the famed Patagonia Roadside Rest, 3.5 miles south of the town. The side road and stream-bed alongside AZ 82 is reputed to be one of the best birding sites for rarities around. The fact that the only bird we saw or heard there was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet (despite the buildup in our guides) only made us more eager for our next stop, the scenic and wildly popular Paton Center for Hummingbirds. In 1973 Wally and Marion Paton opened their property on the outskirts of Patagonia to birders. The Tucson Audubon Society now directs the center, and has added to and improved the already-excellent habitat and viewing opportunities. There are many feeders for hummers and passerines, along with fountains and brush piles hosting Lincoln's Sparrows and Green-tailed Towhees. You can Google the center and view the very feeder cam upon which I saw the lovely Violet-capped Hummingbird for the first time!

Proceeding past the Paton Center we made our way to the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. Four roadrunners hunted in the open fields near the parking lot, and from the visitor center we watched Common Ground-doves, Vesper and Lark Sparrows, Vermilion Flycatchers, Anna's Hummingbirds and Verdin. Along Sonoita Creek, under giant cottonwoods, we found a flock of 12 Western Bluebirds drinking from Sonoita Creek, and watched Swamp Sparrows hunting among the thick rafts of watercress.

Sensitive to the non-birders in our party, and hungry after a not-terribly-birdy morning, we decamped for an excellent late lunch at The Cafe

in Sonoita. I hope the next trip is a bit later in the spring, and takes in Patagonia Lake State Park!

Barbara Johnson

BALTIMORE COUNTY

Costa Rica Trip Report

Twelve members of the Baltimore Bird Club journeyed to Costa Rica for an intensive birding tour this past February. The trip, organized by *Kevin Graff*, was Kevin's third to Costa Rica with tour guide Mario Cordoba of Crescentia Expeditions. Mario has led several other trips for the Baltimore Bird Club as well as for other MOS chapters. Participants in the February trip included *Donna Finnegan, Marty Wright, Mary Anne & Mark Fluke, Martin Granbom, Jane Holloway, Elise & Paul Kreiss, Matt Lince, Joe Supik, and Marcia Watson*.

Kevin worked with Mario to design a tour that would maximize the opportunities to see as many species as possible. And their strategy worked! Collectively, the group observed 338 species of birds during the 11-day, 10-night trip, including 29 of Costa Rica's 52 species of hummingbirds. Some of the better-known places that we visited included Rancho Naturalista, La Selva Biological Station, the Cachi area, Tapanti National Park, the Savegre Valley, the Sarapiqui area, and the Arenal Volcano and Lake Area. There were also many impromptu stops.

Highlights included several Ornate Hawk-eagles, including one on a nest feeding young, and another consuming the remains of a Chestnut-headed Oropendola; several sightings of Laughing Falcon; an entire group of soaring King Vultures; a relatively good view of the elusive Great Tinamou, on the ground in a thicket, just about 20 feet from our group; dynamite views of a pair of Crested Owls and, an adult Spectacled Owl with an immature by its side; the requisite Resplendent Quetzal, the most sought-after of Costa Rica birds; not one but two Sunbitterns; several species of trogons and motmots; a female Purple-crowned Fairy on its nest high in a tree; 16 species of Furnariidae, an interesting family of forest birds including woodcreepers, foliage-gleaners and others (who can resist a bird called the Striped Woodhaunter?); 29 species of tyrant flycatchers; and 11 species of wren. The avian diversity was

just dazzling. A special treat was a dawn visit at Rancho to a special light set-up used to attract insects during the night. At dawn, a number of birds visit to scoop up the insects. Here we had great looks at some shy forest birds like the Red-throated Ant-tanager.

Bird-feeding tables and hummingbird feeders at our hotels and wayside stops offered a never-ending feast of birds. Toucans, coming in to feed on bananas and other fruits, competing with several tanager species, including Passerini's, Blue-gray, spectacular Golden-hooded and Bay-headed.

In addition to birds, Costa Rica is teeming with lots of interesting fauna. We were awed by Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth and Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth, including some with young; a Northern Tamandua anteater, high in a tree (who knew anteaters climb trees?); White-faced Capuchins and Mantled Howler Monkeys; Red-tailed, Variegated and Pygmy Squirrels; agoutis; coatis; Neotropical River Otter; Tayra (a kind of weasel). We had close encounters with two kinds of bats: Long-nosed Bats and Honduran White Bats. The Long-Nosed Bats spent the days roosting in the rafters of the open-air restaurant at one of our hotels, and spent the evenings buzzing our tables. Jose Perez Arrieta (known as Cope), a local naturalist and artist, took us to see the Honduran White Bats. There was a group of five small bats, each looking like a fuzzy golf-ball with pink ears and pink nose, snuggled together on the underside of a leaf just inches from our faces! There were also huge Green Iguanas that lounged high in the treetops, Helmeted and Striped Basilisk, Green Spiny Lizard, and amazingly - Strawberry Poison Dart Frogs.

The scenery of Costa Rica is magnificent. Hulking volcanoes are a prominent feature of the landscape. We had spectacular views of Turrialba and Arenal Volcanoes from two of our hotels as well as a 100 ft waterfall cascading to a natural pool at another. The lush forests were notable for their diversity of plant species. Many large trees were encrusted with numerous species of epiphytic bromeliads and orchids. We thrilled to the unique, if hair-raising, views of Arenal Lake, the tropical canopy, and even a few birds while traversing a 500 ft long bouncy 230 feet high rope suspension bridge. YIKES!

In addition to the beautiful places we stayed, have we mentioned the food!? The "plato typico" for lunch or dinner consists of rice and beans, a fresh vegetable medley, a choice of fish or meat, chayote, potatoes or noodles, always served with freshly-squeezed fruit juice. Breakfast consists of rice and beans along with scrambled eggs, fried plantains, grapefruit, papaya, fruit juice, and the excellent local Costa Rican shade-grown coffee. In fact, much of our birding was done in or near coffee plantations, which are pesticide-free and host a good assortment of resident and migrant birds.

We were all especially grateful for our skillful driver, Luis Morales, who kept us safe on the twisting mountain roads. Luis is a knowledgeable birder in his own right, and he and Mario pooled their knowledge to get us to the birds safely and comfortably!

Thanks to Kevin's meticulous note-keeping and his diligence in entering our sightings in eBird, our group generated over 125 separate eBird checklists for our birding adventures. Great birding, congenial company, delicious food, spectacular scenery - it was a birder's dream come true. *Marcia Watson & Donna Finnegan*



Costa Rica Birders, photo by Marcia Watson

CAROLINE COUNTY

Our President and good friend, *Danny Poet* was in a bad car accident Feb 17. He is recuperating in a rehab center in Centerville and will most likely be there 3 more weeks. Hopefully he will be home and well mended by the May/June issue of the

Yellowthroat. He suffered a broken arm, sternum, ribs, vertebrae. He is in good spirits, but the days are long at rehab. He loves visits, phone calls and cards. *Debby Bennett*

CARROLL COUNTY

Carroll County Bird Club member *Craig Storti* has written a book entitled *Why Travel Matters, A Guide to the Life-Changing Effects of Travel*. Craig, who is a regular contributor to the chapter newsletter, **The Whooosletter**, explains how when you travel, you have a choice: you can be a tourist and have a good time, or you can be a traveler and change your life. He sees the book appealing to three types of travelers:

- seasoned voyagers will read it to learn how they were changed by their travels.
- novice and would-be travelers will use it as a guide to the life-altering experiences that await them.
- those who have traveled only as tourists will read it to see how they can be a traveler and change their life the next time they leave home.

This book should definitely be popular with birders who nowadays travel all over the world in search of new birds for their life lists. Publication date is April 17th. It is available from Amazon. *Don Jewell*

CECIL COUNTY

For those of you who did not attend the annual convention, held in Ocean City this past February, you missed the opportunity to help honor one of the Cecil Bird Club's most distinguished members, *Richard Donham*. Current club President *Maryanne Dolan* presented Richard a Maryland Ornithological Society Service Award for his years of work as the editor of the Maryland Yellowthroat. I know that all have enjoyed and look forward to reading this publication. Thank you Richard for the many years of helping to put this important MOS publication to press.

Having gotten out of town a day early to avoid an early February snow storm that shut down the east coast, *Ken and Kim Drier* are still currently touring India. Three years ago they first visited this wondrous country and have returned to see the southern half of the nation. Kim couldn't wait to go

back. Starting on the coast of the Bay of Bengal in Chennai, *Ken* found several old favorites including the Black Kites which are everywhere, Indian Pond Herons and Rose-ringed Parakeets.

Moving further south along the coast to the stone and cave temple town of Mamallapuram, beautiful White-throated Kingfishers, Rufous Treepies, the gorgeous blue and purple Indian Rollers and the Green Bee-eaters all put in appearances. Also the Painted Storks with their pink color and flocks of Red-wattled Lapwings. The adventurous couple finds themselves at this moment in Madurai in the central part of the country visiting the huge and ancient painted temple complex of Meenakahi Amman. *Ken* hired the hotel's Green Butler or naturalist as a bird guide. An early morning excursion produced a covey of Jungle Bush Quail, several Spotted Owlets, Asian Koels, a large cuckoo, Purple Sunbirds and the Indian Robin, a small wren-like bird, all black. Still to come is a tiger preserve or Periyar National Park with its herds of elephants and extensive wetlands plus two days of traveling through the swamps and canals along the west coast on a houseboat. *Kim* and *Ken* are traveling with Overseas Adventure Travel a company located out of Boston. Plenty more to see before finishing up in Dubai for three days. Hopefully upon their return the snow will have melted and warm weather forecast and spring migration underway. *Ken Drier*

HARFORD COUNTY

Six travelers from Harford County set off on a birding adventure to Asia, a new continent for all. *Dennis & Jean Kirkwood, Diane Jones, Marcia Mundrick, and Bob and Allie Murphy* joined a *Rockjumper* trip to Thailand in February and extended the tour for four days in Cambodia to see the Angkor Wat temple complex and to bird the large inland lake, Tonle Sap. The trip total was just under 500 species as Thailand provides a fantastic introduction to Asian species due to its incredible variety of habitat, all very accessible through a wonderful national park system. Mammals included Asian elephants, which we saw in two different parks, and 3 species of primates. A few familiar birds included barn swallows, great egrets, and ruddy turnstones. We found 3 species not on the published trip list including Thailand's fourth ever record of red-crested pochard. We highly recommend this trip as a starting point for

exploring Asian wildlife as the road system is very modern, accommodations are excellent, and the food is authentic Thai. The birds and wildlife will not disappoint and the costs including flights are some of the most reasonable for any world travel.

Dennis Kirkwood

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Bruce Beehler writes "I recently [March] spent a week camping in Algonquin Provincial Park, in central Ontario. Highlights were Black-backed Woodpeckers, Spruce Grouse, Evening Grosbeaks, and both crossbills. Spring was arriving in force. The lakes were thawing and lots of birds were in song. Needless to say, this was a surprise. Interesting mammals include American Marten, River Otter, and Beaver, all of which were out and about. Readers interested in color images of the wildlife are encouraged to visit my photo-filled blog about the trip at: <https://birdsandnaturenorthamerica.blogspot.com> (Highly recommended -JW)

Carolyn Smith wrote that she is taking a one-year break from Maryland birds while she serves as a Peace Corps Response Volunteer in Mexico. She recently took a trip from Cancun to Mexico City to see the archeological ruins and birds of eastern Mexico. Her resulting bird list is enviable.

"In Cancun, I enjoyed Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans. During my visit to the Ek Balam ruins, I was able to enjoy a Social Flycatcher and the songs of Melodious Blackbirds. In Valladolid, I spotted my first Blue-Gray Tanagers. Near Chichen Itza, I ate with a Summer Tanager and Great-tailed Grackle perched on branches close to my breakfast table. While walking just outside of Chichen Itza, I delighted in watching Orange Orioles, Altamira Orioles, White-fronted Parrots, Ruddy Ground-Doves, and a Gray Hawk. Onward to Merida, where I spied two Peregrine Falcons perched above the entrance of a church. Around the Great Pyramid of Uxmal, I caught glimpses of a Rose-throated Becard and a Common Black Hawk. The coast of Campeche proved to be populated by Wood Storks, Magnificent Frigatebirds, and over 200 Brown Pelicans. The fields and ponds along the road going south featured Roseate Spoonbills and a Black-collared Hawk. Just outside of Palenque, I saw my first Northern Jacana, Pale-vented Pigeons, Scarlet

Macaws, Red-lored Parrots, Yellow-headed Parrots, Boat-billed Herons, Brown Jays, Masked Tityras, a Collared Aracari, a Green-Breasted Mango Hummingbird, a Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, a Russet-naped Wood-Rail, a Sungrebe, a Red-billed Pigeon, an American Pygmy Kingfisher, and a Clay-colored Thrush. Among the Palenque ruins, I saw a Long-billed Hermit Hummingbird, a Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, and a Green Honeycreeper. In La Venta park, an Anhinga was spreading its wings while on a rock. Just before the entrance to Teotihuacan, I spotted my first Black-throated Gray Warbler. Then it was off to Mexico City where I visited museums and experienced my first Mexican earthquake!"

SOUTHERN MD AT LARGE

Jane Kostenko and I took a guided tour to Greece in late February. The focus was on history/archaeology but when birds presented themselves, we looked. Southern Greece must be a great place for passerines in the winter because the trees were often alive with them. I'm sure we missed some of the more difficult to ID birds because we just didn't have the time to scrutinize them. At several places, like the olive trees on the walk up to the Acropolis of Athens, or the trees around Mycanae and Olympia, there would often be dozens of Common Chaffinches, Bramblings, European Greenfinches, and Eurasian Siskins flitting around. Black Redstarts were fairly common on the rocky ruins as were White Wagtails. We only encountered one Blue Rock-Thrush, at Delphi. Also at Olympia, we ran into a mixed flock of tits: Coal, Eurasian Blue, Great and Long-tailed! At our hotel in Olympia, we woke to the lovely song of a Eurasian Blackbird, which always evokes in me the line from the Beatles song, Blackbird: "*blackbird singing in the dead of night.*"

We would highly recommend Greece, not necessarily as a birding destination since we don't have a good feel for hotspots there as we really didn't visit any, but the off season, November to March, has fewer tourists. And, unlike many foreign countries, the water is almost universally potable. Water from aquifers and snow melt in the mountains west of Athens flows via aqueduct to Athens and, unless otherwise marked, is drinkable with no gastric ill effects. Also, despite the major

bloom of wildflowers being in April, we found flowers blooming everywhere we went. Maybe not the blankets that one might anticipate at full bloom but there was always something to be seen!

Tyler Bell

TALBOT COUNTY

Talbot Bird Club member *George Armistead* is on a team in southern Israel doing a big day March 26, part of Champions of the Flyway. The goal in this its 5th year is to raise funds to be used to counter the illegal slaughter of migratory birds, this time in Croatia and Serbia. Other members of the team are Adam Riley (South Africa), Tuomas Seimola (Finland), and Mike Pope (Kuwait). Previous years have targeted illegal bird slaughter in other Middle East countries and the Mediterranean. The team hopes to find about 165 species. Zeiss and Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures are sponsors of Champions of the Flyway, their team dubbed the Zeiss Rockjumpers. George has participated one other year. Champions of the Flyway conservation partners (BirdLife Croatia and Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia) are keen to include law enforcement officers in workshops, training and field actions. Donations, please, may be made to: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rockjumper>. *Harry Armistead.*

TRI-COUNTY

Tri-County member and esteemed ornithologist, *Dr. James Wiley* has recently received a number of awards recognizing his significant contributions to the fields of tropical ecology and ornithology. These awards include the prestigious Alexander F. Skutch Medal for excellence in neotropical ornithology and the Juan Cristobal Gundlach Premio awarded by the Cuban government for his contributions to research and conservation of Cuban fauna. Notably, Jim was the first foreigner to receive the Gundlach Premio. Congratulations to Jim!

Nancy Roisum has been closely following the City of Salisbury's plans for managing and enhancing the City Park and has been advocating for changes to minimize erosion and enhance the park's environment for the benefit of wildlife as well as local citizens. In addition to her background in construction and serving as a park naturalist, she

has put much effort into researching relevant techniques and has met with Salisbury Mayor Jake Day on a number of occasions. Nancy organized a recent "Walk and Talk" through the park with the Mayor. *Ellen Lawler* also took part in the "Walk and Talk".

Our membership is very active. *Mary Huebner* has been leading many of the eBird Tuesday morning bird walks for the Ward Museum. *Ellen Lawler* represented the local birding community on a panel discussion, "The Value of Birds: Diverse Perspectives on Biodiversity" at the Ward Museum on March 9. Other Tri-County members, *Nancy Roisum* and *Liz Layton* attended the panel discussion. Finally, *Gabby Cammarata* has just started working as a research assistant for the Susquehannock Wildlife Society, located in Harford County. She'll be assisting with the organization's wildlife biodiversity surveys, including studies on Eastern Copperheads, Eastern Hellbenders and Wood Turtles. *Ellen Lawler*

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Washington County Bird Club members *Linda* and *Bruce Field* visited the Greensburg 4-H Club on Friday, March 16, 2018. With a focus on "Winter birds in our area", Linda and Bruce talked with the group of 12 4-H members and other guests about how birds get through Winter conditions here and what we can do to supplement their food, water, and shelter needs. The presentation provided information on some familiar species that stay through the Winter months as well as those birds that migrate and will return in the Spring. Also included were hints on bird identification methods and the value of studying the purpose of birds in our lives. Everyone received pamphlets and black-oil sunflower seeds. *Linda Field*



Conservation Committee Report: Winter 2017-2018

The quarter opened with the penning of a short letter to DNR praising the 15-year Vision Plan for Idylwild WMA for its emphasis on biodiversity and

promoting Old Growth to benefit Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS).

We wrote the Maryland Park Service once again on the Belt Woods Strategic Plan, and requested the rationale for public hunting being favored over other lethal means of deer control. We also offered suggestions to beef up staffing at Belt Woods, and opposed hunts for other species. We have had no reply as of this writing.

We joined a letter from the Smart Growth Alliance for Charles County on poor changes made to the Comprehensive Plan.

In January, we wrote the USFWS on changes to hunting regulations, requesting that accidental take of Trumpeter Swans during Tundra Swan hunts be adequately documented.

The early months of 2018 were largely absorbed by legislative action in the General Assembly. We selected four bills to promote.

First, at the request of the Smart on Pesticides Coalition, we drafted a letter in support of the Chlorpyrifos ban bill (HB 116/SB 500). We also got Audubon Maryland-DC and the American Bird Conservancy to join the letter. Multiple action alerts were sent out via several platforms, email and FaceBook. The bill made it out of Senate Committee, but was referred back to Committee for study, killing any chance of passage this session. (After I penned this report, and as reported in the Baltimore Sun on 15 Mar, the MD General Assembly killed the bill, because of fear of an invasion of the spotted lanternfly, an agricultural pest. Chlorpyrifos, however, is not among the recommended methods for control of the spotted lanternfly, so these fears were unfounded.)

The Bird-Safe Building Act of 2018 (HB 986/SB 1009) was introduced in the General Assembly in February. Sponsored by Delegate Lam in the House and Senator Guzzone in the Senate, it was drafted with the assistance of Safe Skies Maryland. The Committee drafted a support letter, and I attended the House hearing as an observer. Beth Decker of Safe Skies, Christine Sheppard of American Bird Conservancy, Anne Lewis of City Wildlife (Washington, D.C.), and Lynne Parks of Lights Out Baltimore testified in support of the bill.

Alerts were sent via email and FaceBook. The House hearing was on March 6. The House Government Affairs Committee voted unfavorably, and the bill has been withdrawn.

Thirdly, we drafted support letters for the Expanded Polystyrene Food Container Ban bill (HB 538/SB 651), and provided them to Trash Free Maryland for distribution to House and Senate Committees. Actions were sent via email and Facebook. The House Committee on Environment, etc. gave the bill a favorable report, but the House Finance Committee voted unfavorably. The Bill's fate is uncertain at this time.

Finally, we joined a letter from Audubon Maryland-DC in support of an update to the Forest Conservation Act (HB 766/SB 610). Alerts were sent via email and FaceBook. Status unknown as of this writing.

One other legislative action came up. George Alderson learned of a bill that would establish a fund for off-road vehicle trails on state lands, drawn from an excise tax on such vehicles. We both testified in a hearing before the Senate on Budget and Taxation, asking for amendments to keep the fund from being used to build off-road vehicle trails on existing state lands, and that any new trails on leased private property ensure that neighbors approve and county zoning and environmental regulations be obeyed. The bill has since been amended along the lines we recommended.

I attended a meeting with the Howard County Delegation to the General Assembly in mid-February, and briefed the delegation on the bills MOS was supporting. I also addressed the third *I Bird, I Vote Summit* organized by Audubon Maryland-DC and talked about Conservation successes in the past year, as well as the bills we were supporting in the General Assembly.

We have joined the efforts of *Lights Out Baltimore* and Audubon Maryland-DC to convince the Baltimore Ravens and the Stadium Authority to modify their plans for four columns of white light 365 days a year at the stadium, and adopt more bird-friendly design, such as purple lights, and periodic turning off of lights, as well as monitoring. We learned on March 12 that Ravens President Dick Cass, upon reviewing the information

provided by LOB and Audubon, had decided there will be no beacon lights of any color whatever.

Letters were sent to the BLM on the management plans for Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments, advising no changes be made before resolution of lawsuits, and suggested areas to avoid habitat destruction.

George Alderson, Committee member, and I attended a hearing of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, to address a bill creating an off-road vehicle fund. We proposed an amendment stating that money could not be used to build new trails on existing state land. We requested that any new trails, which should be leased or on private land, take cognizance of noise, be good neighbors, and protect clean air and water.

Lastly, we joined an Audubon Maryland-DC letter to DNR praising the 2019 work plans for Chesapeake/Pocomoke, Green Ridge, and Savage River State Forests.

Kurt Schwarz, Chair
Conservation Committee



Come Get Your Hands Dirty at Carey Run!

Your help is requested on the **weekend of June 16-17th at Carey Run MOS Sanctuary**. This wonderful sanctuary in Garrett County needs our attention. Invasive Russian Olive trees are encroaching in the fields, unwelcome ATVs have damaged the trails, and winter storms have been tough on the house. In addition to clean-up tasks at Carey Run, there will also be time for birding and for exploring the nearby Chandler and Eleanor Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run, the newest MOS acquisition.

About Carey Run. Carey Run is one of MOS's oldest sanctuaries, located in the Appalachian Mountains in Garrett County. The Sanctuary's 162 acres attract birds that are western Maryland breeding specialties, such as Black-capped Chickadees, Ruffed Grouse, Hermit Thrush,

Chestnut-sided and other warblers, and Blue-headed Vireo. The Carey Run farmhouse, built in 1887, can accommodate several people for weekend stays. Learn more about Carey Run and see a map and photos of the property at <http://www.mdbirds.org/sanctuary/careyrun.htm>.

About the work weekend: Please join our Sanctuary Committee as we perform some basic maintenance on the Carey Run farmhouse, clean up the yard and trails and, of course, bask in the glow of brightly-plumaged birds as they settle into their nesting territories. We'll also make our first official visit to the newest sanctuary, the Chandler and Eleanor Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run, where we will explore and plan future projects.

There are a limited number of beds available for overnight stays in the Carey Run farmhouse, and there is ample space on the lawn to pitch tents. Lunch and dinner will be provided on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

If you would like to participate in the work weekend, **please send an email to Sanctuary Committee Chair Dominic Nucifora at d.nucifora@yahoo.com.** Please include the following information:

- Name of volunteer(s)
- Whether you plan to stay the night at Carey Run
- Where you would prefer to sleep (farmhouse or your own tent on the lawn)

You will then be directed to a sign-up sheet for the different projects that are planned. These sanctuaries may be for the birds but they belong to all of us.

Thank you for playing an active role in habitat conservation!

Dominic Nucifora
Sanctuary Committee Chair



Beyond Birding: Maryland's First Naturalist: 1671-1702

Colin Rees, Anne Arundel

Thanks to the efforts of an Anglican rector at Christ Church some 25 miles from Jug Bay, we know what plants grew in the lower Patuxent and may view specimens he collected in the British Museum in London. The Reverend Hugh Jones arrived in Calvert County in 1696 and began collecting specimens. Over the next few years, being joined by botanists William Vernon and David Krieg. He shipped back pressed plants and seeds for planting in English gardens as well as small dead animals.

In 1983, many of the pressed colonial flora were briefly displayed in the Old State House in Annapolis providing botanists and naturalists the opportunity to view plants that grew in the Jug Bay area some 300 years earlier.

In a letter of 23 January 1698, Jones described the local land as a low and "very woody lie one continued Forrest, no part clear but what is cleared by the English... Indeed in a few years we may expect it otherwise, for the tobacco trade destroyes abundance of timber, both for making hogsheads &building of tobacco houses, besides cleareing ground yearly for planting..."

Today's botanists have established that Eurasian immigrants comprised nearly 10% of the vascular species Jones collected; the corresponding figure today is about 25% and much higher in weedy clearings.

Given such substantial clearing, it is not surprising that a number of the species Jones collected, particularly herbaceous woodland wildflowers, can no longer be found in the Jug Bay area. Some are now confined to western Maryland and others have been extirpated from the state. Tree species have fared better. Except for the white cedar, all of the trees sampled by Jones grow in the Jug Bay area, although not the majestic specimens he would have seen in what remained of the "Ancient forests" in his day. The curious omission of loblolly pine and red maple from Jones's specimens seems to imply that these American species - now common in southern Maryland - spread into the

area as a result of land clearing and later abandonment.



Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report as of March 14, 2018 by Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

The Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC) has reached the following decisions since the latest committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report covers MD/DCRC review package 172. MD/DCRC report numbers are in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. A new "state" species (marked with an asterisk) is Sabine's Gull for DC. The species totals on the Official Lists of the Birds of MD and DC are now 452 and 340, respectively.

More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web pages at the following URL:

<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcindex.html>

MD Records Accepted:

Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini* [MD/2017-051]. Sycamore Landing, Poolesville, Montgomery County. 07-Sep-2017 through 13-Sep-2017. One juvenile.

Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini* [MD/2017-052]. Poplar Island, Sherwood, Talbot County. 08-Sep-2017 through 21-Sep-2017. One juvenile.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens* [MD/2017-082]. Sunset Park, Ocean City, Worcester County. 26-Nov-2017. One bird.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens* [MD/2017-083]. Anacostia Trail, Colmar Manor, Prince George's County. 27-Nov-2017. One bird.

Gray Kingbird, *Tyrannus dominicensis* [MD/2017-074]. Queenstown, Queen Anne's County. 10-Nov-2017 through 26-Nov-2017. One immature.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus savana* [MD/2017-081]. Sunset Park, Ocean City,

Worcester County. 23-Nov-2017 through 24-Nov-2017. One bird.

Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana* [MD/2017-076]. Berlin, Worcester County. 10-Nov-2017. One immature female.

Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana* [MD/2017-084]. Jefferson Patterson Park, St. Leonard, Calvert County. 02-Dec-2017 through 04-Dec-2017. One bird.

MD Records Not Accepted:

Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinicus* [MD/2017-022]. Pocomoke City, Worcester County. 23-Apr-2017. One bird.

DC Records Accepted:

*Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini* [DC/2017-050]. Potomac River. 04-Sep-2017 through 11-Sep-2017. One juvenile.

Mississippi Kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis* [DC/1999-003]. Georgetown Reservoir. 05-Jun-1988. One immature.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens* [DC/2017-073]. Kenilworth Park. 10-Nov-2017. One bird.

DC Records Not Accepted:

Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana* [DC/2017-068]. Rock Creek Park. 14-Sep-2017. One immature.



Book Reviews: Colin Rees, Anne Arundel

A Photographic Field Guide to the Birds of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh by Bikram Grewal, Sumit Sen, Sarwandeep Singh, Nikhil Devasar and Garima Bhatia. 792 p., Princeton University Press.

This book is the only photographic field guide for the entire Indian subcontinent as its weight alone attests. Some 1,375 species are covered using over 4,000 photographs of very high quality. Each

species is furnished with descriptions of plumage and details on voice, range and habitat. An accompanying map denotes the species' distribution. The guide is replete with information on taxonomic changes (frequent in the Indian Subcontinent), status and population density.

An especially valuable section is devoted to a brief ornithological history of the area with seminal figures as Salin Ali, Dillon Ripley and F. C. Dickinson. Readers may be aware of the mounting pressures on habitat and threats to birds and other wildlife and feel a trifle disappointed that the book does not elaborate sufficiently on conservation efforts being undertaken by central and state governments and conservation bodies.

The Australian Bird Guide by Peter Menkhorst, Danny Rogers, Rohan Clarke, Jeff Davies, Peter Marsack and Kim Franklin. 560 p., Princeton University Press.

This book relies upon color plates to depict the 900 species of birds found in the continent and its southern seas and must now take pride of place as the most comprehensive field guide on Australian avifauna. Though some of the images tease the eye, readers will find them of the best quality. Each species is provided with details on identification, distribution and status, with attention to subspecies, rarities and plumage variation when warranted.

There are introductory sections on *Identifying birds, Birding in Australia and A guide for birders to the evolution and classification of Australian birds*. It must be a pity, however, that the authors did not provide an overall account of the status of Australian birds given that so much is at stake. Recent reports show that the status of Australian birds is declining faster than elsewhere in the world with 20% of the species at risk. This is hinted at in the brief forward and it is to be regretted that this is an opportunity missed.

Alas, readers will find earlier guides equally remiss and may wish to consult BirdLife International's website for Australia for a satisfactory account.

But do visit both continents for you will not be disappointed. There is much to see.



The Maryland Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Program

Chris Eberly, Director, Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership

The recovery of our national symbol, the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), is considered one of the greatest conservation successes of the 20th century. The 44 nesting pairs counted in Maryland in 1977 represented an all-time low for the state. As actions were taken to reduce the declines (e.g., banning harmful pesticides like DDT), Bald Eagle populations recovered to the point that they were removed from the federal threatened and endangered species list in 2007. Today, the Chesapeake Bay region hosts the largest concentration of Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states, and at least 700 pairs currently breed throughout Maryland.

State-funded surveys of Maryland's Bald Eagle population were discontinued in 2005. However, the continuous threats from pollution (to Eagles and their food sources), increased frequency of violent storms (such as the recent wind storm that destroyed four Eagle nests), coastal development (increased disturbance near nest sites and loss of habitat), and degraded fish populations in various tidal watersheds (food sources for Eagles) all contribute to the compelling need for renewed, ongoing monitoring of Bald Eagles in our state. In response to this need, the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership initiated the Maryland Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Program in 2016 (see <https://marylandbirds.org/bald-eagle-nest-monitoring/>). This is the only annual survey program to monitor Bald Eagle nest productivity in the state of Maryland. Now in its third year, more than 160 volunteers have signed up to be eagle nest monitors. That's the good news!

The "bad" news? We have more citizen scientist nest monitors than we do "available" nests. We started with a database of nests from an aerial survey in 2004. While this seemed promising, we discovered many of those nests no longer exist. With no nest data more recent than the 2004 survey, a new approach was required. **We now**

rely on people like you to find and report Bald Eagle nests to us. Our best guess is there are at least 400 nests in Maryland we do not yet have in our database! Here's how **you** can help. Be on the lookout for eagle nests (much easier before trees start leafing out!), or eagle activity indicating a possible nest nearby. When you find a nest, check our map of known Bald Eagle nest locations, found at the bottom of our Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring web page (see link above). If it does not show up on the map, please report this nest to us by clicking on the "Report a Bald Eagle Nest" link. You have the first choice to monitor a nest you report to us.

If someone reports a nest to us and that person does not wish to monitor the nest, we put the unassigned nest location on the map with a Green icon. To "claim" one of these unassigned Green nest icons, go to the link "Request an Unassigned Nest to Monitor" and submit your request. For an entire nesting season, we only ask you visit a nest three times, for an hour or two each time. Now that we are into the incubation and hatching phase, only one or two visits are still required for this season.

Our goal is to reverse our "problem" and be able to have an eagle nest available for every volunteer to monitor. Please visit our Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring page for more information and resources. If you have any questions about the Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Program, please contact Liz, our Volunteer Coordinator, at mdeaglenests@gmail.com.



Photo credit: Craig Koppie



MOS CalleCalendar

May - June 2018
By Marilyn Veen

Tuesday, May 1

■ **Baltimore.** Lake Roland. Weekly walk following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. 8 AM. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to park). Check with coordinator if weather is extreme (rain, wind). Coordinator Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net.

■ **Baltimore.** Phoenix Pond. Excellent migrant spot in N Baltimore Co on NCR Trail. Self-guided walk. Optional add-on to nearby Paper Mill Rd Flats. 8 AM. Coordinator Kevin Graff,

keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or (text only) 410-967-5896.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** *Marcia Watson* on "From Mountains to Saltmarsh: Rediscovering the MOS Sanctuaries." MOS, the Maryland Ornithological Society, owns and manages ten bird sanctuaries spread throughout the state of Maryland. Yet many birders are unaware of these properties. Marcia Watson will present illustrated profiles of the sanctuaries, discussing the birds and habitats found in each one. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, lecture starts about 7:20 PM. Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum.

Wednesday, May 2

■ **Anne Arundel.** Susquehanna SP. Hike along the river to find Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers and many spring migrants. One of the best spring warbler sites in Maryland with as many as 24 warbler species in a single day! We will drive to the picnic area for lunch and then hike some of the trails there. Pack lunch, snacks, and water. Bring sun block and bug spray. 7 AM-2 PM. Meet at Severna Park P&R. Contact Kevin Graff, 410-967-5896 or keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

■ **Baltimore.** Fort McHenry. Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys at the Fort and wetland. Telescope can be useful. Canceled in bad weather. 8 AM (half day). Meet outside of park gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

■ **Baltimore.** Fort McHenry. Part of a series of evening bird walks at the Fort and wetland. Telescope can be useful. Canceled in bad weather. 6 PM (2 hrs). Meet outside of park gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader Joe Supik, 443-417-5015.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Your MOS Sanctuaries" by *Marcia Watson*. 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Center, Westminster. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.

■ **Tri-county.** Schumaker Pond for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, migrating passerines and newly arrived summer residents. This will be a short walk around the two sections of the pond. 7:30 AM (2 hrs). Meet at Ward Museum parking

lot. For more information, contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

Thursday, May 3

MEETING. Frederick. *Mike Hudson* will speak on the incredible migration of "Red Knots." 7 PM, The Lodge at Homewood, 500 Pearson Circle, Frederick. Contact Don Hambright, 301-676-0635.

■ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net, for more information.

Friday-Sunday, May 4-6

■ **Allegany/Garrett.** Garrett County Bird Fest with Deep Creek SP. All MOS members are invited to participate. Many of the trips planned will be the same as the trips to birding hot spots at last year's MOS conference. Included are trips to Jennings Randolph Reservoir, Lost Land Run, The Glades etc. Check out the Deep Creek Lake Discovery Center website for schedules and registration, www.discoverycenterdcl.com.

Friday, May 4

DINNER/MEETING. Harford. *Lindsay Jacks* with Lights Out Baltimore. Learn about the goals and accomplishments of this grass roots community program whose aim is to make Baltimore safe for migratory birds. Ms. Jacks will share how concerned birders are making a difference locally. Pizza night 6:15 PM, general meeting 7 PM, followed by presentation. \$7, reservations required. Harford Glen Environmental Education Ctr, 502 W Wheel Rd, Bel Air. Contact Deb Stewart for details, 410-971-1913.

■ **Montgomery.** Birding by Ear at Hughes Hollow. Tune up your ears as we listen for and learn to identify the songs and calls of migrant and local breeding birds. The trip will be geared to new birders but all levels are welcome. Limit 10. Reservations required. 7 AM. Meet at the Hughes Hollow parking lot. For more information email leader Paul Woodward, grackling@ATT.NET.

Saturday, May 5

■ **Anne Arundel.** Swan Creek. The number one birding spot in the county, this trip will include a variety of habitats such as upland woods, wetlands, beach and dredge cells. Many shorebirds and waterfowl, also migrating warblers and other passerines. Path has coarse stones and rocks; therefore, hiking boots are encouraged. Scopes are helpful. 7 AM (half day). Meet at Swan Creek. Park on the right side along the fence. There will be a sign-in at the start of the walk. Contact Stan Arnold, 410-428-7567 or thrushthost@gmail.com.

■ **Baltimore.** Susquehanna SP Rock Run Area. Trip to the river in Harford Co for resident Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers and a collection of spring migrants. This is one of the best spring warbler watching sites in Maryland; 18 to 24 warbler species possible. Bring a picnic lunch for the wrap-up of what could be an excellent morning of birding. Optional extension after lunch to Swan Harbor Farm Park for shorebirds, herons, rails and bitterns. Contact the leaders in advance for possible carpooling. 7:30 AM. Meet at the lot at the end of Rock Run Rd, next to the old mill building. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

■ **Cecil.** Fair Hill NRMA. Fair Hill has designated approximately 100 acres of grassland as preserved habitat for ground-nesting birds. This unique program will benefit Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Northern Bobwhite, bird species whose numbers are in decline. 7 AM. Meet at the parking lot on Appleton Rd. Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

MAY COUNT. Dorchester. Contact Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com, if you can contribute to the 101st annual count of all birds seen in Maryland's largest county. Any small area coverage would be helpful.

■ **Frederick.** Little Bennett Park. Look for migrants and our returning warm weather feathered friends. Contact leader Kathy Brown, 301-865-1369, for meeting time and location.

■ **Harford.** TENTH Annual Epic Birding Challenge at Susquehanna SP. The previous competitions have been well-attended and a lot of fun. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. The rules allow all

to contribute to the fun and success of each team. 6:30 AM. Meet at the Rock Run Mill for team selections and rules review. Counting will run from 6:45-11:30 AM. A rally celebration will be held at 12 noon at the Laurrapin Grille, 209 N Washington St, Havre de Grace. Family members and others are welcome to join the contestants for the celebration. Coordinator Tom Gibson, gibsonlld@aol.com or 410-734-4135.

■ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at E end of Lemon's Br Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ **Washington.** Hagerstown City Park. 8 AM. Meet at the Hager House parking lot. Contact Larry Zaleski at 301-491-2866 or larry.zaleski@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 6

■ **Anne Arundel.** Foreman's Branch Bird Banding Station (previously known as Chino Farms). This is the only major migratory bird banding station on the Eastern Shore. The small group of banders will demonstrate how they ensnare the birds in the nets, carefully extract them, transport them back to the banding shed, note the sex, age, and weight, attach bands and release them back into the wild. We will get to observe both resident and migratory birds on the way to their summer grounds, see them up close and learn about them in a fun and exciting way. Trip limited to 15 people, RSVP required, and carpooling is necessary. Porta-potty facilities only on site. 6:45 AM (half day). Meet at Bay 50 shopping center. Contact Dianne Westbrook, 443-618-9421 or edwestbrook1@gmail.com.

■ **Anne Arundel.** Kinder Farm Park. We will walk on paved and grassy/rocky trails looking for common birds of the park. Listening and learning bird calls will be highlighted. During nesting season, participants can assist in checking bluebird boxes. Though participants can leave at any time, the walk will conclude after two hours with a review and count of birds observed. Canceled for rain. If weather is iffy or for questions, contact leader. 8 AM (2 hrs). Meet in the first parking lot on left after the entry hut.

Contact Stacy Epperson, 410-987-7533 or stac.epperson@gmail.com (preferred).

■ **Baltimore.** Oregon Ridge and Agricultural Center. Oregon Ridge is a fine spot for warblers in early May, with some birds on territory and others passing through. The Center for Maryland Agriculture, just across the street, is great for meadow birds. Grasshopper Sparrow (breeds), Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink and Savannah Sparrow are all possible. 8 AM. Meet at the Oregon Ridge Nature Ctr, 13555 Beaver Dam Rd. Leader Simon Best, simonrabest@gmail.com.

■ **Baltimore.** Chimney Swifts at Dusk. Join the BBC Swift Watch Team as Chimney Swifts enter a favorite chimney at sunset. Since the swifts routinely change migration roosting chimneys, this year's spring site will be posted on the BBC website (baltimorebirdclub.org/) and Facebook page

(www.facebook.com/groups/382565775136349/) by Friday, May 4. 7:45-8:30 PM. Come half an hour early if the weather is cloudy or gray. Directions will be provided. Canceled if raining. Leader Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net.

■ **Cecil.** Field Trip Birding 101 at Turkey Point. Join a ranger and a representative of the Cecil County Birding Club on a hike to the Turkey Point Lighthouse, a distance of about two miles, looking for local and migrating songbirds along the way. Learn more about birding with and without binoculars, examining bird size, silhouette, song and habitat. The pace will be leisurely. Most of the walking is on a gravel road with good footing, but there are a few hilly sections. Wear comfortable shoes/boots for walking. Bring binoculars if you have them. Extras will be available on loan. Call Elk Neck State Park at 410-287-5333 for more details and to make your reservation. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Turkey Point Parking Lot. Leader TBD and Elk Neck park staff.

■ **Frederick.** Fred Archibald May Count. 6 AM. Meet at the Sanctuary, 6011 Boyers Mill Rd, New Market. Coordinator David Smith, 410-549-7082.

■ **Howard.** Western Regional Park. Moderate walking along field edges and woodland trails. Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and

flyovers. Facilities available. 8 AM (2-3 hrs). Meet at Carr's Mill Rd parking lot. Leader David Sandler, detour65@gmail.com or 410-370-0747.

■ **Kent.** Millington NRMA. Migrating warblers should still be on the move while many breeding specialties will have established territories in Kent County's most extensive forest. Half day. Meet at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ **Montgomery.** Izaak Walton League Conservation Farm. Once again, the B-CC Chapter is generously providing us access to this large private property south of Poolesville. Woods, hedgerows, streams, fields, and ponds provide a wide range of bird habitats, and migration should be well underway. Reservations required, limit 12. 7 AM (half day). Meet at the League's chapter house. For reservations and more information, contact leader Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net or 240-515-4517.

■ **Talbot.** Susquehanna SP. Prime migration location; possibly 12-15 warbler species (including Cerulean, Hooded and Kentucky), vireos, thrushes, and flycatchers. We will not be back until mid-afternoon thus lunch or snacks should be taken. Facilities are available at a very nice picnic location in the park. 6:30 AM. Leader Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009 or vdesanctis@verizon.net.

Tuesday, May 8

■ **Baltimore.** Lake Roland. Weekly walk following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. 8 AM. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to park). Check with coordinator if weather is extreme (rain, wind). Coordinator Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net.

■ **Baltimore.** Phoenix Pond. Excellent migrant spot in N Baltimore Co on NCR Trail. Self-guided walk. Optional add-on to nearby Paper Mill Rd Flats. 8 AM. Meet at Phoenix Pond. Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or (text only) 410-967-5896.

MEETING. **Kent.** A Tour of MOS Sanctuaries with *Marcia Watson*. 7:30 PM at Heron Point, Chestertown. Contact Nancy Martin for more information, 410-778-9568.

MEETING. **Patuxent/PGAS.** "Marshes for Tomorrow - The Fight to Save Maryland's Salt Marshes from Sea Level Rise", presented by *David R. Curson*. Blackwater NWR lies at the heart of one of the largest tidal marsh complexes in the northeastern United States, which is recognized as an Important Bird Area (Southern Dorchester County IBA) supporting globally important populations of Black Rail and Saltmarsh Sparrow. Rapid sea level rise threatens the survival of this ecosystem during the current century. Audubon is working with Federal, State and NGO partners to ensure that Maryland's salt marshes and their birds do survive, by implementing innovative strategies including thin-layer sediment application, removing salt-stressed trees to facilitate the transition of dying forests to salt marsh, and enhancing tidal exchange through hydrological management. Free and open to the public. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time. College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 2nd Fl, 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park.

Wednesday, May 9

■ **Allegany/Garrett.** Mt Nebo WMA. Connie Skipper will lead this walk thru Mt Nebo including the pond. 8 AM. Meet at Mt Nebo WMA on Rt 219. Carpool from Cumberland will leave Ollie's parking lot at 7 AM. Contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

■ **Baltimore.** Fort McHenry. Part of a series of evening bird walks at the Fort and wetland. Canceled in bad weather. 6 PM (2 hrs). Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader Joe Supik, 443-417-5015.

■ **Washington.** Pangborn and Fairgrounds Parks. Co-sponsored with Hagerstown Parks and Recreation. 8-10 AM. Meet at the pond pavilion. Contact Bruce or Linda Field at 301-797-6189 to participate.

Thursday, May 10

MEETING. **Howard.** "Global Owl Distribution, Diversity and Conservation," by *Dr. Steve*

Sheffield, professor of biology at Bowie State University. Hospitality 7 PM, meeting/program 7:30 PM at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Saturday, May 12

MAY COUNT. Allegany. Compiler J. B. Churchill, jchurchi@gmail.com.

MAY COUNT. Anne Arundel. This is an activity you can do on your own or with a group of like-minded birders. You can select an area and spend part of the day or all day noting the birds you see and also the numbers of birds you are observing. Please let Dotty know where you'll be counting so she can make sure two groups are not counting in the same area. Coordinator Dotty Mumford, 443-214-5154 or dottymum@comcast.net.

MAY COUNT. Baltimore. Coordinators Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-823-2962, and Debbie Terry, dterry12@verizon.net or 443-286-0922.

Baltimore. Youth Trip: Oregon Ridge Park. We'll explore the fields and woods for migrating birds, especially warblers. For those who have not visited the Nature Center before, we'll spend some time after the walk admiring the displays and information available inside. The variety of habitats allows us to see a good variety of birds, and we'll have plenty of opportunities to get to know both the common residents of the area, and the less common migrants that pass through. 8 AM. Meet at the Nature Center. Leader John Robinson, 410-483-6620 or jcrobin@jhmi.edu.

MAY COUNT. Calvert. Compiler Sherman Suter, shermansuter@gmail.com or 410-586-1073 / 703-768-5922.

MAY COUNT. Caroline. Contact Debby Bennett, 410-829-4952 or dabennett1996@gmail.com, for more information.

MAY COUNT. Carroll. Parties of counters will set their own schedules in their pre-arranged areas to count resident and migrant bird species throughout the County. Contact Don Jewell to verify your bird counting area, jewelldg@gmail.com or 410-259-4716. The Tally Rally will be hosted by Susan Bollinger and Barbara Olsh at their home. If you will be attending the tally rally, please RSVP to Susan

(410-848-2050) no later than Wednesday, May 9. Plan on bringing a food item or a cash donation (\$5).

MAY COUNT. Cecil. The May Count is held on the 2nd Saturday of this month each year and is an attempt to get a "snapshot" of bird populations much in the same way that the Christmas Count does. The Cecil Bird Club will cover Fair Hill NRMA, Elk Neck State Forest and Perryville Town Park. In addition, if you wish to count another area, or count yard birds and feeders, that's fine. Trip leaders are needed for all locations. (If you are counting feeder birds, the leader for your yard is YOU!). This is the most fun you can have on a census! Please contact the Cecil County Compiler, Richard Donham (rdonham8@gmail.com or 610-932-0634) with your preference for the area where you wish to participate and for the fairly simple observation records that are needed

MAY COUNT. Charles. Compiler is Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com.

MAY COUNT. Dorchester. Contact Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com, if you can contribute to the 102nd annual count of all birds seen in Maryland's largest county. Any small area coverage would be helpful.

MAY COUNT. Frederick. It's peak migration so this is the most fun you can have working on a census. Lots of eyes and ears are needed! Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082.

MAY COUNT. Garrett. Compiler Nadine Jakubowski, nmjak0527@gmail.com or 443-608-9248.

MAY COUNT. Harford. Help Harford County contribute to this important data collection day and monitor migration throughout our locale. Contact the coordinator (this position is currently vacant). Contact details will be published prior to the event by email, social media and on the club's website, harfordbirdclub.org.

MAY COUNT. Howard. Compiler Kevin Heffernan, kjheff122@gmail.com or 443-668-7618.

MAY COUNT. Kent. An all-day effort to census as much of Kent County as possible. Join a field party or count in your neighborhood. Contact compiler Walter Ellison for details or area assignment, 410-

778-9568.

MAY COUNT. Montgomery. Compiler Diane Ford, dmford455@yahoo.com.

MAY COUNT. Patuxent/PGAS. Annual county-wide census of resident and migrating birds. Pick your own start and stop times. Contact compiler Fred Fallon at fwfallon@ymail.com to receive an assigned area and for more information.

MAY COUNT. St. Mary's. Compiler J. Tyler Bell, jtylerbell@yahoo.com.

MAY COUNT. Somerset. Compiler Paul Bystrak, shrike@comcast.net or 443-783-1268.

MAY COUNT. Washington. Contact Coordinator Mark Abdy at mjabdy@yahoo.com or 301-432-7696 to participate in this annual bird census.

MAY COUNT. Wicomico. Compiler Ellen Lawler, 410-546-9056 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

MAY COUNT. Worcester. Compiler Marcia Balestri, mebalestri@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 13

■ Baltimore. Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. Please join us for a bird walk at the height of spring migration in this 1200 acre wilderness park in west Baltimore City. The park contains mature and secondary forest as well as riparian habitats and some limited field habitat. 8 AM. Meet at the Winans Meadows parking lot. Leaders Elise and Paul Kreiss, 410-367-8194 or ekrelss@verizon.net, paul1kreiss@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy walk through varied habitats for waterfowl, marsh birds, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Nature Center. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com

■ Frederick. Audrey Carroll May Count. 6 AM. Meet at the Sanctuary. Coordinator David Smith, 410-549-7082.

■ Montgomery. Rock Creek Park, DC. Near peak time for migrant warblers, vireos, etc.

Reservations required. 6:30 AM. Meet at Picnic Area #18, one-half mile below the Nature Center on Ridge Rd. Call the leader for more information or specific directions. Leader Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

MAY COUNT. Talbot. Join the TBC in surveying all of Talbot County in collaboration with MOS Spring Count. Areas to be assigned to assure thorough coverage of the county. If interested, contact Dave Palmer, dpalmermd59@gmail.com or 410-829-3376, for assignment of birding areas.

■ Talbot. North Tara Road (Chesapeake Forest), Dorchester Co, including Brookview and Hurlock Areas at the beginning of the spring migration. Expect to see many returning warblers, tanagers, flycatchers, vireos and always the unexpected. 6:30 AM. Depart Easton Acme parking lot. Leader Dave Bent, 410-822-2133.

Tuesday, May 15

■ Baltimore. Lake Roland. Weekly walk following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. 8 AM. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to park). Check with coordinator if weather is extreme (rain, wind). Coordinator Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Phoenix Pond. Excellent migrant spot in N Baltimore Co on NCR Trail. Self-guided walk. Optional add-on to nearby Paper Mill Rd Flats. 8 AM. Meet at Phoenix Pond. Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or (text only) 410-967-5896.

Wednesday, May 16

■ Allegany/Garrett. River Road, Grantsville. Joe and Carol McDaniel will lead this trip. 9: AM. Meet on the far side of the first River Road bridge that crosses the Casselman River. Carpool from Cumberland leaves Ollie's parking lot at 8:30 AM. Contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

■ Anne Arundel. Wooten's Landing and Sand's Road Park. One of the sites along the Patuxent Water Trail, Wooten's Landing boasts diverse habitat and has had over 202 species of birds, including Virginia Rail, Clapper/King Rail, cuckoos, and many warblers and vireos. After exploring

there, we will travel to Sand's Road Park in search of Grasshopper Sparrows and Meadowlarks. 7:30 AM. Meet at Wooten's Landing. Contact Brad Mann, 619-654-7719 or brmann2@att.net.

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Progress in Resolving the Avian Tree of Life; or Why Geese Now Come Before Loons on Your Checklist," with *Michael Braun*. Molecular genetic data have been improving our understanding of the deep evolutionary relationships of birds since the 1970's. The advent of genomics in the past 15 years has revolutionized this area of research and provided surprising insights on the Avian Tree of Life. This talk will review some of the more prominent discoveries and explore their implications for how birds have evolved and adapted throughout their history. Mike founded the Smithsonian's Laboratory of Molecular Systematics. His research employs genomic tools to explore the evolutionary relationships, diversification processes and conservation biology of birds and other organisms. 7 PM. Quiet Waters Park, Blue Heron Center. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

MEETING. Montgomery. *Gail Mackiernan* will, finally, give her highly anticipated program on Madagascar. Madagascar is the world's fourth-largest island and is often referred to as the "Eighth Continent". Its unique fauna and flora have evolved during millions of years of isolation and are a "naturalist's dream." Over 140 endemic species of birds (and five endemic bird families!) are found here, as well as a fascinating supporting cast of lemurs, chameleons, frogs, weird insects and even stranger plants. Gail Mackiernan will talk about her November 2015 trip, which explored this ancient land from south to north and recorded many of the island's most sought-after species. Doors open at 7 PM, refreshments 7:30 and meeting starts at 8 PM. Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd.

Tri-county. Pemberton Park for migrating and summer resident songbirds. This will be a short walk on some of the park's trails; sturdy shoes recommended for walking on dirt trails. 7:30 AM (2 hrs). Meet at Pemberton Park parking lot. For more information, contact leader Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

Thursday, May 17

MEETING. Caroline. *Ray Bryant* will speak on "All about Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research" and his adventures as a volunteer. 7:30 PM, Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

Harford. Havre de Grace Promenade Bird Walk. This event is jointly sponsored by the Environmental Center at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum and the Harford Bird Club. Beginners and young birders welcome. A limited number of loaner binoculars will be available. Enjoy a stroll along the shores of the mouth of the Susquehanna River and the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. 5:30 PM. Meet at the Museum where you will be welcomed by Sarah Shpak (Environmental staff), envirocenteratdgmm@gmail.com, and Colleen Webster (HBC member), cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577.

Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, May 19

Allegany/Garrett. Lostland Run in Garrett County. We'll make multiple stops on the trip to look for a variety of grassland and forest birds on roads that wind through reclaimed surface mines and along the Potomac River. Some very short hikes are included. Pack a drink and a snack. 8 AM. Meet at the intersection of Main, Edgewood and Boiling Springs Sts in Deer Park, near the railroad tracks and the old Arnold's Store. Carpool from Ollies in Cumberland leaves at 7 AM. Contact leader Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086 for more information and updates on meeting places

Anne Arundel. Piney Orchard Nature Preserve. The Preserve is 100 acres of wetlands, woodlands, open grassy areas, sandy dry stream beds and freshwater ponds. We should get good looks at Yellow-throated Vireos as well as nesting Hooded Warblers, Northern Parula, Redstart and Prothonotary warblers. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Preserve. Contact Peter Hanan, 301-580-2785 or peter.hanan@icloud.com.

■ **Baltimore.** Druid Hill Park. Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. 8 AM. Meet at the Park. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410 558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com.

■ **Baltimore.** Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescope can be useful. Canceled in bad weather. 8 AM. Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader Ray Kandt, 336-906-0241.

■ **Frederick.** Bird Banding Demo. 8 AM. Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary, 13030 Old Annapolis Rd, New Market, MD. For more information, contact Crystal Kunst, 443-536-3071 or hckunst@gis.net.

■ **Harford.** Birds and Blooms Walk at Ladew Gardens. Rachel Hebert (HBC member and Ladew staff member) is the leader for this morning stroll through the gardens to look for spring migrants while enjoying the beautiful 22 acres of gardens. Pre-registration is preferred for this trip. 7:30 AM. Meet in the Ladew Topiary Gardens main parking lot. Contact Rachel, hebert.rachel2@gmail.com or 410-557-9570, ext.261, for further information.

■ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. No reservations needed. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ **Washington.** Catoctin Park and Manahan Road, 7 AM (half day). Meet at Rt 66 P&R. Contact Shirley Ford, 301-241-3020 or bluebirdlover12@outlook.com.

Sunday, May 20

■ **Baltimore.** Cromwell Valley Park. Very good at this season for breeding Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, also late migrating warblers and flycatchers. 8 AM. Meet at the Park. Leader Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-823-2962.

■ **Kent.** Delaware Bay Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs. The annual May gathering of northbound shorebirds, including large numbers of Red Knots and Ruddy Turnstones in bright breeding dress,

feeding on horseshoe crab eggs along the shores of Delaware Bay is a migration spectacle. We will visit the Delaware Bay shore from Mispillion Light south to Prime Hook, an area also good for coastal marsh birds, gulls and terns. Full day, bring lunch and snacks. Leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568.

■ **Talbot.** Delaware Bayshore including the DuPont Nature Center at Mispillion Light (think Red Knots). We will go where the birds have been reported. Expect to see a large number of species. Full day trip, bring lunch, drinks and insect repellent. 6:30 AM. Depart Easton Acme parking lot. Leader Dave Palmer, 410-829-3376 or dpalmermd59@gmail.com.

Monday, May 21

ANNUAL DINNER. **Tri-county.** "Galapagos" presented by *Chris Dominick*. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share, \$2 towards paper products and a contribution to the raffle table. Dinner begins at 6 PM at the MAC Education Center, 909 Progress Circle (off Snow Hill Rd), Salisbury. For more information, contact Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

■ **Washington.** Mills Park. Co-sponsored with Hagerstown Parks and Recreation. 8-10 AM. Meet at the Mills Park lot accessed from Belview Ave. Contact Judy Lilga, 432-2276 or jslilga@wildblue.net.

Tuesday, May 22

■ **Baltimore.** Phoenix Pond. Excellent migrant spot in N Baltimore Co on NCR Trail. Self-guided walk. Optional add-on to nearby Paper Mill Rd Flats. 8 AM. Meet at Phoenix Pond. Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or (text only) 410-967-5896.

MEETING. **Washington.** Bring short presentations, photos, stories, or anything of interest to share for the always-popular Members Night. 7 PM. Mt. Aetna Nature Center, 21905 Mt. Aetna Rd, Hagerstown. Call 301-797-8454 for additional information.

Wednesday, May 23

■ **Anne Arundel.** Bombay Hook NWR and DuPont Nature Center, DE. Bombay Hook provides habitat for wildlife. Four-fifths of the refuge is tidal salt

marsh with a mix of cordgrass meadows, mud flats, tidal pools, rivers, creeks, and tidal streams. The upland area includes forests, freshwater impoundments, brushy and timbered swamps, and fields of herbaceous plants. The refuge offers visitors a 12-mile wildlife drive and five walking trails. Shorebirds are the main quest; warblers, wrens and raptors should also make appearances. A little walking on level trails/surfaces. The DuPont Nature Center is located east of Milford on the scenic Misillion River. It's a bird lover's paradise! Each spring it is the site of one of the world's most amazing spectacles: thousands of shorebirds of 210 species from around the world feed non-stop for two weeks in the Delaware Bay. Pack lunch, snacks and water. Bring sun block and bug spray. 7 AM (full day). Meet at Bay 50 Shopping Center. Contact Dale Murphy, 410-798-6345 or murphy_dale@msn.com.

Saturday, May 26

■ Baltimore. Patterson Park. This green oasis in the middle of Baltimore City can be a magnet for migrating, wintering and nesting birds. 8 AM. Meet at the Park. For questions or to arrange to borrow binoculars for a walk, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473.

■ Carroll. Birding and Botanizing Along Saw Mill Road. 8 AM (half day). Contact Bob Ringler for directions and more information at 410-303-2792.

■ Harford. Eden Mill Nature Center Banding Demonstration. Long-time bird bander and accomplished birder and naturalist, Dr. Mark Johnson, and his able crew of volunteers will demonstrate and explain banding and scientific data collection techniques with actual in-hand birds. This is a great opportunity to get close-up looks at species we often only get to see from a distance or through deep thickets. It is a wonderful and unique outdoor experience for children. 8 AM. Meet at the Vangrin Bird Banding Station. Contact Mark for further details, marksjohnson2@gmail.com or 410-692-5978.

■ Howard. Patapsco Scrubland. Starting in the scrubland, we'll look for warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other edge species. Depending on conditions, we may continue into the woods. Moderate to possibly difficult walking. Steep trails with several stream crossings, so wear appropriate

footwear. Facilities available. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at 735 River Rd (up long drive, take right-hand split and park by house). Leader Felicia Lovelett, 301-802-1969 or c5nest@gmail.com.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Delaware Bayshore. Join leader Fred Fallon for our annual Memorial Day weekend shorebird hunt at the great refuges of the Delaware Bayshore. Migrating shorebirds are the main target species. We can also expect to see gulls, terns, some waterfowl, and waders. Exact route and stops will be determined by current bird reports and by tides. Bring lunch, snacks, drinks, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, scope, and money for tolls and possible dinner stop. Reservations required. Carpool will leave from the Bowie P&R at 7 AM. Please contact Fred Fallon at fwallon@ymail.com no later than May 20 to reserve your spot, and for more information.

Sunday, May 27

■ Cecil. Field Trip for Beginners at Courthouse Point. Courthouse Point MHA is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers and managed for hunting by the Maryland DNR. Possible sightings include Northern Harrier, Little Blue Heron, Wild Turkey, Marsh Wren, Scarlet Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, and Swamp Sparrow. This is one of the best spots in the county for the ever-elusive Yellow-breasted Chat. Easy walking on mostly level ground. Sunscreen and bug spray are strongly recommended. Binoculars and enthusiasm are required! Note: Parking permit is required for each car. There is no fee. Request permit online from Maryland DNR, or mail your request to Gwynnbrook Wildlife and Heritage Service Office, 3740 Gwynnbrook Ave, Owings Mills, MD 21117. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet near Dunkin' Donuts in Big Elk Mall, intersection of Rt 40 and Rt 213 in Elkton. Leader Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

■ Talbot. Tuckahoe and Adkins Arboretum. A pleasant morning at Caroline County's premier State Park makes for a relaxing Sunday morning in late Spring. We will search different areas of the wooded sections, both near the Creek and upland adjacent to the fields. 6:30 AM. Depart Easton Acme parking lot. Leader Dave Palmer, 410-829-3376 or dpalmermd59@gmail.com.

■ Washington. Kiwanis Park. This is one in a series of bird walks co-sponsored with Washington

County Parks and Recreation and the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. 8 AM (2 hrs). Meet in the Kiwanis Park lot. Contact Sandy Sagalkin, 240-291-6465.

Monday, May 28

■ Harford. Hidden Valley and World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats. Trip to the aptly named Hidden Valley area with its sparkling stream running through a beautiful stand of mature hemlock and from there to the flats. Carpooling is encouraged because of limited parking space. 7 AM. Meet in the parking lot at the northern end of Madonna Rd where it crosses Deer Creek. Leader Dennis Kirkwood, newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905.

Wednesday, May 30

■ Anne Arundel. Annapolis Water Works Park, Bird and Plant Walk and Bring-your-own Picnic. A mile west of the Annapolis Mall, Annapolis Waterworks Park is a passive recreational facility operated by the Annapolis Recreation and Parks Department, and the site of the old Annapolis City Reservoir. It's accessible by permit only (which AABC will procure). With acres of open water, wetlands and miles of forested trails, it's an excellent site for migrating and resident birds, and for observing the varied plant life. Wear sturdy shoes and insect repellent, as the higher trails can be steep and somewhat brushy. Option to bypass the trail walk and bird-in-place from benches near water, and we'll gather for lunch at the pavilion overlooking the ponds. Because parking is very limited, we'll carpool. 8 AM. Meet at the lot close to Housley Rd in front of Burlington Coat Factory, 2639 Housley Road Bldg C, Annapolis. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

Saturday-Sunday, June 2-3

■ Frederick. Western Maryland Overnight Trip. Search for rare Golden-winged Warblers, Henslow's Sparrows and other specialties among the beautiful Western Maryland mountains. Leader Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690.

Saturday, June 2

■ Allegany/Garrett. Mt. Savage. Looking for Red-Headed Woodpeckers, Bobolink and Dickcissel. Raquel Ketterman will lead this trip. 8 AM. Meet at Mt Savage School, New School Rd. Carpool from Cumberland leaves Ollie's parking lot

at 7:30 AM. Contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

■ Carroll. Upper Gunpowder River at River Valley Ranch for nesting warblers and other neotropical species. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the parking lot in front of the North Carroll Senior Ctr. Parking at birding site is limited so we will carpool. Contact Henry Leskinen for more information at 443-259-6572.

■ Cecil. Woodlawn Wildlife Area. Woodlawn is a restored landfill that is a model for transforming an eyesore into a sight for sore eyes. Join us for a leisurely stroll around the fields and woods of this re-awakening natural area. Carpooling encouraged. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Woodlawn Parking Area. Trip leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

■ Harford. Susquehanna SP Warbler Walk. Join us at a beautiful location during prime birding season. Leader Tim Houghton will guide you to various hot spots depending on the status of the spring migration and what birds are being seen at the time. There is a good chance for Cerulean, Prothonotary and Yellow-throated Warblers. Expect a variety of passerines along with waterfowl and waders out on the river. A few eagles and osprey should fly over as well. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Rock Run Mill parking area. Contact Tim for details, timhoughton@comcast.net or 410-510-7504.

■ Montgomery. Old Legislative Road, Allegany Co. This is a great spot for Henslow's Sparrow and Golden-winged Warbler, both state-rare breeding species. We'll also spend time birding along other country roads for Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow, and more. Limit 10. 7 AM. Meet at the Urbana P&R. Contact Gemma Radko, 301-514-2894 or gradko@yahoo.com, to sign up.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at E end of Lemon's Br Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, June 3

■ Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. We will walk on paved and grassy/rocky trails looking for common birds of the park. Listening and learning bird calls will be highlighted. During nesting season, participants can assist in checking bluebird boxes. Though participants can leave at any time, the walk will conclude after two hours with a review and count of birds observed. Canceled for rain. If weather is iffy or for questions, contact leader. 8 AM (2 hrs). Meet in the first parking lot on left after the entry hut. Contact Stacy Epperson, 410-987-7533 or stac.epperson@gmail.com (preferred).

PICNIC. Baltimore. BBC Picnic at Oregon Ridge, Lake Pavilion. Details to follow as we get closer to the date. 12:30 - 3:30 PM. Coordinator Kevin Graff keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or (text only) 410 967-5896 or call Peter Lev at 410-823-2962.

Tuesday, June 5

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Seasons at South Tract. The last of a series of quarterly bird walks at the South Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge. We will walk some of the trails and will stop at the Pollinator Garden bird feeding area by the Visitor Center. Be prepared to walk up to 2.5 miles. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Target species include late migrating land birds and resident breeding birds. 8 AM (half day). Meet in the parking lot of the Visitor Center; bear left on entering the parking area and go all the way to the last section of the lot past the covered solar recharging station for electric vehicles. For further information, contact leader Marcia Watson at marshwren50@comcast.net.

Thursday, June 7

PICNIC. Frederick. Our favorite spot for this event is Pinecliff Park where there is a lovely pavilion just in case we have a bit of rain. Bring binoculars, a dish to share, plate, utensils and drink. We'll meet at 6 PM to eat and then do some birding.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, June 9

■ Allegany/Garrett. Field trip for Nighthawks, Whip-poor-wills and Owls. 8:15 PM. Meet on the downtown Cumberland Mall near Mark's Café for Nighthawks. From there we'll go in search of Whip-poor-wills and Owls. Contact leader Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086

■ Anne Arundel/Baltimore. Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract. The North Tract of the Refuge consists of 8100 acres of upland hardwood forest and upland meadow, riparian habitat (the Little Patuxent River), and constructed wetland. This refuge is a good spot for breeding birds including Hooded Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak. Eight miles of paved road make up the drivable Wildlife Loop. A wetland and wildlife viewing area on the Wildlife Loop provides visitors the opportunity to see waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and songbirds. Several other multi-use (non-driving) trails traverse varied habitat. Sign-in required. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the North Tract Visitor Center. Contact Alan and Susan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

■ Baltimore. Youth Trip to Cromwell Valley Park. Our return visit to the park lets us visit one of the best locations for breeding birds such as Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Northern Parulas and Warbling Vireos. This area has a nice selection of field and forest birds, and it's always easy to get good looks at most of the nesting birds. Highly recommended! 8 AM. Meet at the Nature Education Ctr, Willow Grove Farm entrance. Follow entrance road, cross a small bridge, and park in lot on left. Leader John Robinson, 410-483-6620 or jcrobin@jhmi.edu.

■ Harford. Perryville Community Park Paddle Outing. Bring your kayak, canoe, stand-up, etc. Colleen and Sue will ply the usually serene waters of the well-protected Mill Creek and historic Furnace Bay in search of swimmers, divers and, of course, fliers. Eagles and osprey are often seen soaring overhead; songbirds and woodland birds frequent the shoreline; waterfowl and heron are common sightings. No rental boats available. 9 AM. Meet at Stumps Point at the far end of the Perryville Community Park. Contact leaders Colleen Webster, cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577, or Sue Procell, procellmd@gmail.com or 443-417-4919.

PICNIC. Montgomery. For the third year we will be having our picnic at Black Hills Regional Park, shelter H. Starting at 5 PM we will have hot dogs, hamburgers and the fixings! Plus whatever you want to bring to share. Last year we had an exceptional lot of goodies, lots of different types of salad and sweets. Put us on your calendar, there will be birding afterwards around the same area where we do the Annual Big Sit.

Sunday, June 10

■ Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy walk through varied habitats for waterfowl, marsh birds, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Center. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

■ Talbot. Late Evening trip to Tara Road in Dorchester Co in search of calling Whip-poor-wills, Chuck-wills-widows and possibly an owl or two. 7 PM, Depart Easton Acme parking lot. Leaders Wayne Bell and George Radcliffe, 410-820-6002 or wbell2@washcoll.edu.

■ Washington. Bird Hagerstown's lovely City Park. Co-sponsored with Hagerstown Parks and Recreation, 8-10 AM. Meet at the Hager House parking lot. Contact Larry Zaleski, 301-491-2866 or larry.zaleski@gmail.com.

Tuesday, June 12

MEETING. Allegany/Garrett. Annual Planning Meeting, 6 PM. We will meet at the Frostburg Public Library, Main St, Frostburg. Street parking is available, as well as parking in back of the library. Take elevator to meeting room.

MEETING. Patuxent/PGAS. Members' Night. Join members of the Patuxent Bird Club and PGAS as they present a few of their favorite photos and give brief presentations about their birding adventures. Members who wish to present must contact Fred Fallon at fwfallon@ymail.com no later than June 5 so that he can organize the agenda. Free and open to the public. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time. College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 2nd Fl, 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park.

Friday, June 15

■ Harford. Owl Pursuit. Join experienced leader Dave Webb as he pursues those elusive nocturnal hunters at various sites in eastern Harford Co. 8:30 PM. Meet at the P&R at Rt 152 and I-95 in Havre de Grace. For further information contact Dave Webb, porzana@comcast.net or 410-939-3537.

Saturday, June 16

■ Carroll. North Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge. This is a great place to bird. Be sure to bring a photo ID. Everyone must sign in separately. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the P&R on Rt 32 just S of Rt 26 in Eldersburg. Contact Bob Ringler at 410-303-2792.

■ Cecil. Community Outreach: 7th Annual Northeast River Wade-In. Join us as we pull up our pant legs and wade into the Upper Chesapeake Bay to measure water quality the way retired Maryland State Senator Bernie Fowler does with his "sneaker index." Rain or shine. Wear light-colored shoes that you don't mind getting wet. Free and open to the public - the more, the merrier! 10 AM-2 PM. Northeast Beach location in Elk Neck SP. For details contact Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com or 410-996-5267.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. No reservations needed. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Tuesday, June 19

■ Cecil. Poplar Island, located in the mid-Chesapeake Bay, has become a national model of environmental restoration. It is the site where an innovative solution for dredged material management is resulting in the restoration of a once vanishing island. It is also a site where great birds can be found. Boat leaves Tilghman Island at 9 AM; returns 1:30 PM. We will car pool from Elkton, leaving at 6 AM. Reservations a must. We have 6 slots available. Contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com, to secure your spot.

Thursday, June 21

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, June 23

■ Baltimore. Druid Hill Park, Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. 8 AM. Meet at the Park. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410 558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com.

PICNIC. Carroll. Summer Picnic at Amy's House. Amy Hoffman will again be hosting this annual event. Enjoy good food and good company. Bring your bathing suit if you are so inclined. Amy has a great pool. 1 PM. Contact Amy, 410-549-3598, if you plan on attending and tell her what food item you will be bringing.

■ Washington. Pangborn and Fairgrounds Parks. Co-sponsored with Hagerstown Parks and Recreation. 8-10 AM. Meet at the pond pavilion. Contact Larry Zaleski, 301-491-2866 or larry.zaleski@gmail.com.

Sunday, June 24

■ Washington. Kiwanis Park. This is one in a series of bird walks co-sponsored with Washington County Parks and Recreation and the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. 8 AM (2 hrs). Meet in the Kiwanis Park lot. Contact Sandy Sagalkin, 240-291-6465.

PICNIC. Washington. Bring your own place setting, drink, and dish to share. 4 PM. Camp Harding Park, 13029 Pectonville Rd, near Big Pool. Contact Anna Hutzell, 301-797-8454 or amp8185@aol.com, for additional information.

Wednesday, June 27

■ Howard. Ospreys at Jug Bay. A three-hour tour by pontoon boat at high tide to see Ospreys and their chicks. There is a \$26 fee (cash only) for this trip. 9-12 AM. Meet at Patuxent River Park, 16000 Croom Airport Rd, Upper Marlboro. For reservations contact Mary Maxey at maximom11998@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 30

■ Baltimore. Patterson Park. This green oasis in the middle of Baltimore City can be a magnet for migrating, wintering and nesting birds. 8 AM. Meet at the Park. For questions or to arrange to borrow binoculars for a walk, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473.

Thursday, July 5

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, July 7

■ Harford. Havre de Grace Paddle Outing. Bring your kayak, canoe, stand-up, etc. The harbor areas of Havre De Grace are home to a great variety of water-related species such as ducks, geese, swallows, osprey, gulls, terns, heron and many others. Add pleasant, scenic paddling and you have a perfect combination for a truly enjoyable outing. No rental boats available. 8 AM. Meet at Tydings Park in Havre De Grace. Contact leaders Colleen Webster, cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577, or Sue Procell, procellmd@gmail.com or 443-417-4919.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk, 7:30 AM. Meet at E end of Lemon's Br Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Friday, July 13

WINE AND CHEESE SOCIAL. Harford. Chris Eberly from the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership will be speaking on the "Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Program" and sharing the 2017-2018 data and trends. Social 6:30-8 PM; wine, cheese, and conversation. Business Meeting followed by guest speaker presentation 8-9:30 PM. Anita C. Leight Estuary Ctr, 700 Otter Point Rd, Abingdon.

Sunday, July 15

■ Harford. Bombay Hook. Visit one of the East Coast's best sites for shorebirds and waterfowl. This beautiful reserve in Delaware with its diverse coastal wetland habitats offers great promise for a variety of shorebirds, water birds, wading species, raptors and songbirds. Because of trip length and

the lack of local eateries, bring a lunch and sufficient drink for the day. 7:30 AM (full day). Meet at the Havre de Grace commuter lot near Rt 155 and I-95. Contact experienced leader Dr. Dave Larkin, larkin3001@comcast.net or 410-569-8319, for further details.

Thursday, July 19

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, July 21

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. No reservations needed. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Saturday, July 28

■ Harford. Hummingbird Banding at the home of Diane Jones. Watch from the expansive porch of Diane Jones's home overlooking her beautiful gardens as experienced bird bander, Bruce Peterjohn, skillfully and delicately bands our smallest bird. Contact Diane, diane.v.jones@ssa.gov or 410-404-9180, for details, directions and best viewing times.

Thursday, August 2

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, August 4

*** Harford.** Wildlife Search at Harford Glen. The Glen is always beautiful and offers diverse habitat in a compact area. Do not miss the varied wildlife and avian species found in this Harford Co gem. Two experienced and knowledgeable leaders will help you find and learn about the herps, insects, mammals and birds that this exceptional site offers. 9 AM. Meet in the parking lot of the Glen. The HBC leader and accomplished birder and

naturalist is Matt Hafner, hafner.matt@gmail.com or 410-971-3203.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at E end of Lemon's Br Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Thursday, August 16

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, August 18

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. No reservations needed. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Saturday, August 25

■ Cecil. Community Outreach at Mount Harmon Lotus Blossom Festival. We will have a table in the main tent at the most beautiful festival in Cecil County. Please stop by to see which birds we're spotting. The day will include a short field trip in the afternoon. 10 AM- 4 PM. Mount Harmon Plantation, 600 Mount Harmon Rd, Earleville, MD. Details at mountharmon.org/plantation-events-2/#Lotus.

Sunday, August 26

PICNIC. **Washington.** Bring your own place setting, drink, and dish to share. 4 PM. Camp Harding Park, 13029 Pectonville Rd, near Big Pool. Contact Anna Hutzell, 301-797-8454 or amp8185@aol.com, for additional information.

Tuesday, August 28

■ Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. First in a series of weekly morning walks to follow the progress of Fall migration. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds. 8 AM. Meet at the "Willow Grove Farm" entrance. Follow entrance road, cross a small bridge, and park in lot on left. Leader: TBA.

Saturday, September 1

■ Cecil. Turkey Point. Join us for the traditional kick-off for fall migration at Turkey Point. Walk through the woods and fields for migrant songbirds, including early warblers. Be prepared for a round-trip hike to the Point, a distance of about two miles. The pace will be leisurely. Most of the walking is on a gravel road with good footing, but there are a few hilly sections. Wear comfortable shoes/boots for walking. Bring drinks and/or snacks. Sunscreen and bug spray are strongly recommended. 7 AM. Meet at the Turkey Point Parking Lot. Trip leader Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com.

Sunday, September 2

■ Howard. Dick Smith Memorial Butterfly Walk. Enjoy searching for late-summer butterflies with instruction on their identification. Easy walking on mowed paths around the community garden plots and Elkhorn meadow. We will continue on paved paths and mowed areas near the right-of-way alongside open, flowery wet meadows and brushy hillsides. Bring close-focus binoculars to view nectaring behavior. Canceled if raining or overcast. No facilities. 9:30 am (2-3 hrs.) Meet at Elkhorn Garden Plots, Oakland Mills Rd opposite Dasher Ct. Leader Linda Hunt, raven10322@hotmail.com.

Monday, September 3

■ Harford. Ma and Pa Trail. Explore the southernmost segment of this popular walking trail, walking from Annie's Playground towards Tollgate Road and back. Diverse habitat along the way promises a variety of birds. 7 AM. Meet at Annie's Playground on Smith Ln off Connolly Rd in Fallston. The leader is Susan Hood, susanjhood@comcast.net or 410-937-7552.



MOS Chapter Web Sites (to be consulted for the most up-to-date trip/meeting info)

Allegany/Garrett: westernmdbirding.com/
Anne Arundel: aabirdclub.org/
Baltimore: baltimorebirdclub.org/
Caroline: carolinebirdclubmos.blogspot.com/
Carroll: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/carroll.html
Cecil: cecilbirds.org/

Frederick: frederickbirdclub.org/
Harford: harfordbirdclub.org/
Howard: howardbirds.org/
Kent: kentcounty.com/recreation/birding/birding-club
Montgomery: montgomerybirdclub.org/
Patuxent/PG: patuxentbirdclub.org/
Talbot: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/talbot.html
Tri-County (Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset): tricountybirdclub.weebly.com/
Washington: washingtoncountybirdclub.webs.com/
YMOS: ymos.org/

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Anyone is welcome to contribute articles, photos,
or ideas that would be of interest to other
birders.

Copy may be e-mailed to Orietta Estrada by Jul
25, 2018 for the Sep/Oct 2018 issue.

Illustrations pp. 1,7 ©M. Suzanne Probst

Save the Date!

MOS Retreat to Better our Organization

Saturday, June 30, 9AM- 4PM, at Cylburn
Arboretum in Baltimore

Following up on the state-wide working retreat in
January, 2017, we will gather to see what progress
we've made in the working groups formed then.
We'll review our mission and goals, take stock of
MOS' accomplishments and explore/identify future
needs and opportunities for bird and habitat
conservation, for building our organization's
outreach, and serving our members better. Come
help shape a more perfect MOS! More info to follow
on www.mdbirds.org and via email.

Editor's Note

Welcome to the September/October 2018 issue of The Maryland Yellowthroat. What an honor it is to be your Editor!

This edition of our bi-monthly newsletter is packed with exciting news and calls to action from across our membership. Robin Todd, our new President, pens his inaugural President's Corner outlining the current, and future, state of MOS; YMOS shares their most recent victories (yes, "victories" plural); a snail-sucking snake species, not previously described by science, *Dipsa georgejetti*, is named after a longtime MOS member; the MD/DC Records Committee reports a new state species upgrade; Maryland Biodiversity Project shares Nine Tips for Greener Yard Work; Conservation Committee reports on the latest in Maryland bird conservation; Audubon sues to restore Migratory Bird Treaty Act protections; and our former Editor Richard Donham bids us farewell.

I would like to sincerely thank Richard Donham and Barbara Johnson. Richard has graciously guided me through the editorial process and counseled me on the September/October issue; and Barbara played a significant part in my editorship by recruiting me. It is under Barbara's encouragement that I hope to grow the Yellowthroat toward its full potential.

There are numerous ways to get involved with MOS. You can help to boost MOS membership by promoting our chapters, publications, bird counts, and Work Weekends. Please consider volunteering for our upcoming Work Weekends (p.8) and the next Fall Seasonal Bird Count (p.7). Details inside!

Thank you to all of our contributors for another wonderful issue.

Orietta C. Estrada, Editor
The Maryland Yellowthroat
orietta.candela@gmail.com



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

VOL. 38, NO. 4

President's Corner

In this, my first President's Corner, I will briefly recap a few of the major projects underway or planned. I intend to cover other projects in future *Yellowthroats*.

Unbelievably it is now approaching time to hold another Maryland Breeding Birds Atlas (BBA). Previous BBAs were conducted from 1983-1987 and 2002-2006. Reliable data is needed on changes in Maryland's breeding birds to influence legislation that would, for example, impact development of prime breeding habitat for certain of the state's rare birds. This is the type of data the a BBA will provide. Since the last atlas, the methods for recording data have changed radically. In the last atlas we used cards, in the next one we will very likely use our smartphones. Data from the new BBA must be comparable to that from the previous BBAs. The cost will be greater owing the need for purpose-built electronic infrastructure, available only from Cornell and a few other facilities. The next atlas will again require a large volunteer effort by MOS members. Please consider taking part in what should be a very worthwhile and en-

joyable citizen science effort. A BBA committee is being formed, so please watch for announcements.

The Sanctuaries Committee has been hard at work with commendable results under the able and energetic leadership of Dominic Nucifora. Given the cost of land today, it is unlikely MOS will be able to afford additional land for sanctuaries. Therefore, we must cherish these sanctuaries. This is another part of the Society which needs volunteer help, especially the work weekends at Irish Grove and Carey Run. Upkeep of the houses on both properties is a major part of what needs doing. Going on one of these weekends will give a better understanding of what the maintenance of our sanctuaries involves. And there is the bonus of some birding and the camaraderie which comes whenever birders get together. If you have not already been on one, I encourage you to volunteer for a work weekend.

As you probably all know, for our next MOS conference, we have contracted with Conservation Community Consulting (CCC). Jim Rapp

continued on page 2

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and Dave Wilson, of CCC, plan to use their expertise and contacts to bring in more sponsors, new ideas for field trips, and to attract more attendees. The latter could be from MOS, or from outside, and it could be a recruiting opportunity. Still, the non-MOS attendees who do not go onto to join the Society, should have an enhanced appreciation of birds from their conference experience. The next conference will be held at Washington College in Chestertown on the Eastern Shore on the last weekend of May. Meg Harris is leading the effort for MOS with her customary efficiency and is already deep in the weeds of accommodation and scheduling matters.

After years of sterling service as our *Yellowthroat* Editor, Richard Donham has stepped down and moved a bit north. We are fortunate to have a first class new Editor in Orietta Estrada, a Frederick-based science writer and a keen birder. As the means for communications continue to evolve — too rapidly for many of us — the YT needs to keep up with these changes. I am pleased to report that Orietta has some exciting new ideas for our newsletter. One of these is to include birding-related advertisements and a newsletter with photographs, in color. Richard has been advising Orietta for her first edition of the YT. Stay tuned.

The Records Committee continues to review records for potential new birds to our region with commendable rigor and great attention to detail. We have a group of expert birders, led by Phil Davis, who devote considerable time and effort in assessing reports of new species to our area. You can be assured that any new records have been thoroughly vetted and any that were not accepted lacked an essential piece of information. Phil's files are a wonder

to behold — they alone are worth attending a Records Committee meeting. And please remember to submit reports of any new species which you encounter.

The future of our Society lies with its younger members or those who will join it in the coming years. It should be obvious to anyone attending our meetings or going on field trips that we are predominantly an older, grayer group. Birding does tend to attract an older crowd, but we do need to encourage younger people to take up birding and, by extension, become the next generation of advocates for birds and their habitats. The YMOS program is an excellent vehicle for motivating preteens and teens to take up birding.

George Radcliffe and his group have done a great job. But George notes that one of the factors which inhibits young people from taking up birding is that they do not know any other birders of their age group. His program provides settings where tomorrow's birders can meet others of their own age; such group events allow young birders to feel connected to larger community. YMOS requires a lot of time and energy — it certainly deserves our support.

The development of our new website is another project which is vital to the MOS' future. An organizations' website is often the first impression potential new members will have. It therefore needs to immediately grab their attention and convey the message that MOS is THE organization for Maryland's birds and birders. We have become accustomed to slick new websites with speedy navigation. Thus, nothing is more off-putting than a clunky, plodding website, with stale content. Tom Strikwerda and his team have a done a fine job in selecting the contractor for the new

website and working with them to shepherd it through the development stages. By the time you read this, the site should have gone live. Please make a point of visiting it regularly and forwarding the link to it to anyone who might be interested in MOS. The new site will have considerably greater functionality, as well more pleasing graphics and richer content. It will allow to pay one's dues and will have a sophisticated calendar of MOS events.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with our Chapter members, including those most distant from Howard County, my primary Chapter. I hope to find out more about your interests and concerns in the coming months so that I can do a better job as president.

In closing, I want to say that it will be an honor to be president of MOS. This probably sounds like a platitude, but I mean it and hope to prove worthy of the responsibility.

Good birding to all and I hope to see you on a field trip, or at a club or Board meeting soon!

Sincerely,

Robin G. Todd, President
Maryland Ornithological Society



The Maryland Yellowthroat Has a New Editor!

After six years, I am sad to step down as the Editor of The Maryland Yellowthroat. Being Editor has given me the opportunity to do something useful and to collaborate with others who love birding and the community of birders.

The regular and occasional contributors to the Yellowthroat are simply the best collaborators I could have ever had. They all had busy, full lives and somehow found time to volunteer their energies and talent to The Maryland Ornithological Society and to their Chapters and then, to communicate important and interesting stuff to the rest of the Society membership. How cool is that! (I miss you folks already.)

When I became Editor in 2012, I wasn't sure about the need for a newsletter in this age of the internet. It seemed to me that, perhaps, newsletters were a relic of a time when much more of the members' and the organization's intercourse relied on mail. Nowadays, with eBird, MDbirding, email, and the website, perhaps a newsletter, particularly one that is sent by surface mail to our old-fashioned mailboxes...well, maybe it was irrelevant.

However, I have come to believe that The Maryland Yellowthroat, in whatever format, is critical to MOS. First, it provides an adhesive for a statewide organization with 16 independent chapters each with numerous and diverse activities. Without a newsletter, the chapters would be less connected, and their efforts less successful. And, secondly, a newsletter is a good tool for providing focus on the elemental questions of "who are we?" and "where are we going?" A newsletter is an accessible record of what we have done, and a good

forum for discussion and contemplation on what the future of MOS should be.

But, we shouldn't assume that the newsletter is always doing a great job in these critical roles. We should be continually striving to make the Yellowthroat better. A new Editor is an opportunity a re-evaluation, and even though I am sad to no longer be at the helm, I am looking forward to working with our new Editor, Orietta Estrada, as she takes up the reins.

Let me tell you a bit about Ms. Estrada. She began her career as a Technical Writer and Editor in the gaming software industry in 2006. In 2011, after finishing an M.A. in Post-Colonial Literature and Theory, she continued her career as a Technical Editor on a contract with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Since 2014 she has worked as a freelance Science Writer and Blogger.

Orietta is also an active birder. This year she is taking the time to bird across Maryland in pursuit of a state "big-year". She has worked with raptors, has maintained over 100 Bluebird boxes, and is licensed by USFWS to salvage birds.

Orietta lives in Frederick County with her husband, their daughter, and their two dogs.

I think the MOS membership is in very good hands with Ms. Estrada as the Editor of Yellowthroat...she has good ideas for making the newsletter even stronger. I am confident you will continue your good work for your Chapters and MOS, and Ms. Estrada will be there to help us. There is an enormous wealth of knowledge, creativity and energy in the MOS membership, and as an organization, MOS can make a difference in the future of the state and region.

Finally, let me personally thank our

retiring President, Barbara Johnson, for being the prime agent in identifying and recruiting our new Editor. She went out and took advantage of her speaking opportunities with Chapters to promote the job to the membership. I think she has done excellent work.

Richard Donham, Past Editor
The Maryland Yellowthroat

The Maryland Yellowthroat Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

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Mail submissions to the Editor by Sept. 25
for the Nov./Dec 2018 Issue.

Illus. ©M.Suzanne Probst



Conservation Committee

Spring 2018

MOS worked on five bills in the Maryland General Assembly during the 2018 Session. The Session ran into April. Unfortunately, four of the five bills failed this session.

We joined in with the Smart on Pesticides Coalition (SOPC) in support of the Chlorpyrifos ban bill (HB 116/SB 500). Chlorpyrifos, aside from its ill effects on human health, is toxic to birds. We are a member of SOPC, and at their instruction, we only submitted written testimony on the effect of Chlorpyrifos on birds and their prey. Audubon Maryland-DC and the American Bird Conservancy joined our letter. Multiple action alerts were sent out via email, Facebook, to MOS members, and the Maryland birding community. The bill made it out of Senate Committee but was referred back to Committee for study, killing any chance of passage this session.

The Chlorpyrifos ban bill (HB 116/SB 500) was defeated by the opposition, comprised of the golf course industry and fears of the spotted lanternfly. Chlorpyrifos is not a recommended pesticide for control of the spotted lanternfly, so those fears were misplaced. The spotted lanternfly is an invasive agricultural pest from Asia, which has been found in Pennsylvania and Virginia.

This bill was defeated by the opposition of the golf course industry and fears of the spotted lanternfly. The spotted lanternfly is an invasive agricultural pest from Asia, which has been found in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Chlorpyrifos is not a recommended pesticide for control of the spotted lanternfly, so those fears were misplaced.

The Bird-Safe Building Act of 2018 (HB 986/SB 1009) was introduced in the General Assembly in February by Delegate Lam in the House and Senator Guzzone in the Senate. It was drafted with the assistance of Safe Skies Maryland, a subcommittee of the Conservation Committee. It would have mandated incorporation of bird-safe features in any new or substantially renovated state government buildings. The Committee drafted a support letter, and I attended the House hearing as an observer. Beth Decker of Safe Skies Maryland, Christine Sheppard of American Bird Conservancy, Anne Lewis of City Wildlife (Washington, D.C.), and Lynne Parks of Lights Out Baltimore testified in support of the bill. Alerts were sent via email and Facebook. Unfortunately, the bill received an unfavorable fiscal note, and was subsequently withdrawn in the House.

We drafted support letters for the Expanded Polystyrene Food Container Ban bill (HB 538/SB 651), and provided them to Trash Free Maryland for distribution to the House and Senate Committees. Polystyrene (plastic) breaks down into small particles, and makes its way into the food chain, thus poisoning seabirds. Actions were sent via email and Facebook. I have received no information on why this bill failed.

We joined a letter from Audubon Maryland-DC in support of an update to the Forest Conservation Act (HB 766/SB 610) — its progress was convoluted. This year's bill would concentrate on protecting larger "priority" forests (i.e., forests that are deemed to be ecologically valuable). I attended a lobby day, and met with staffers and legislators in the House in support of the bill. Action alerts were sent via email and Facebook. When controversy broke out over whether Maryland is actually losing forest cover, outright protection was dropped from the bill, and a study was mandated instead. It did pass the House but was too late to be acted on in the Senate.

The one semi-success of this session was with a bill on off-road vehicles. Committee member George Alderson and I attended a hearing of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee to address a bill creating an off-road vehicle fund for such trails in State Parks. We proposed an amendment that would state the money could not be used to build new trails on existing state park land. We requested that any new trails be built only on newly purchased park lands or on leased private land. New trails should take cognizance of noise, be good neighbors, and protect clean air and water. The bill eventually passed both chambers, and contained a provision that no trails be built on existing park lands. The other requested provisions, such as observing noise, environmental considerations, and good neighbor policies, did not make it into the final bill.

Kurt Schwarz, Chair
Conservation Committee

Advertise With MOS

Reach members interested in your services by advertising with MOS. For more information, please contact the Editor:
orietta.candela@gmail.com

Limiting the Applicability of the MBTA

Meeting With Doi About M-37050 Opinion 4/5/2018

 On December 22, 2017 the Office of the Solicitor of the Department of Interior issued Memorandum Opinion 37050. That opinion reexamined the issue of whether the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibited unintentional killing of migratory birds in the exercise of lawful industrial or other business activities. It characterized these deaths as “incidental take.” The opinion examined the history of the act, the judicial interpretation of the act, and principles of statutory construction. It concluded that the MBTA applied only to acts for which the intention was to kill migratory birds. This interpretation directly contravened the prior administration’s opinion, M-37041, which concluded that the prohibition contained in the MBTA included “incidental taking and killing.”

The conservation communities’ response in opposition to this opinion was overwhelming. On February 8, 2018 The National Audubon Society coordinated action by over 40 national organizations and over 450 local organizations to send a letter to every Senator and Congressman expressing opposition to the opinion and urging opposition to any action that would diminish the protections the MBTA afforded birds. National signatories to that letter included the National Audubon Society, American Birding Association, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship, Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, Humane Society of the United States, Pollinator Partnership, and the World Wildlife Fund. Local organizational signatories included Prince Georges Audubon Society, Maryland Ornithological Society, Maryland Conservation Council, Friends of Blackwater, DC Audubon Society, American University Washington College of Law, Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, Rockbridge Bird Club, and the Virginia Bluebird Society. (Not every Maryland, DC, or Virginia signatory is listed.) The signatory organizations from California were so numerous they occupied almost a full page.

I phoned Daniel H. Jorjani, the Principal Deputy Solicitor whose name appeared on Memorandum Opinion 37050. After a cordial exchange of phone calls we established a meeting at his office on April 5, 2018 to discuss the opinion. Mr. Jorjani was delayed and did not appear at the start of the meeting; however, I did speak with Ann Navarro and Gary Lawkowski, two attorneys in the Department. What could I add to the conversation between conservation groups and the Department of the Interior that would be helpful and different to induce the Depart-

ment to change its opinion? Representatives for other groups were criticizing the reasoning and conclusions in M-37050. My criticisms would only be more of the same.

During its discussion of how the courts considered the application of the MBTA to industrial bird deaths, the opinion cited *United States v FMC Corporation*, a 1978 decision from the Federal Court of Appeals. That decision upheld the conviction of FMC Corporation for killing birds. The birds died after ingesting insecticide-laced water contained in a discharge pond on its property in Middleport, NY. As a young federal prosecutor in Western New York in the 70s, I led the FMC investigation, made the prosecutorial recommendations, presented the evidence to the grand jury, tried the case, and argued the appeal. My approach would be to present the point of view of people in the field charged with applying the MBTA to an industrial bird kill (“incidental taking”).

Neither Ms. Navarro, nor Mr. Lawkowski, was aware of my relationship to the FMC case. They listened with close attention to my presentation. The first requirement in that case was to determine whether the FMC holding pond presented a continuing health hazard to the community. It was only after obtaining the knowledge that FMC had agreed to eliminate the holding pond and install a wastewater processing plant that we approached application of the MBTA to the bird deaths. The factors which went into consideration of the decision to prosecute included: proximity of the pond to a school; proximity of the pond to a National, State, and County wildlife refuge system; number of, and variety of bird deaths; and the time required to eliminate the pond. Factors that were considered in not charging any individuals included: the need to discharge untreated insecticide into the pond to avoid human poisoning; the fact that the insecticide was biodegradable; and the prior decision to eliminate the pond.

The prosecutorial approach was to use the strict liability imposed by the MBTA as an incentive to induce the company to take the action required to reduce or eliminate the danger the pond posed to humans, birds, and other wildlife. One of the first remedial actions FMC undertook was to repair the fence around the holding pond to prevent children from using it as a shortcut to school. The Department of the Interior’s agent worked with FMC during the investigative period to try several different approaches to reduce the bird deaths. Neighbor complaints quickly eliminated the use of noise canons to keep birds from the pond. Guards proved ineffective. Eventually FMC and the Department of Interior improvised a series

of floats that made the pond substantially less attractive to the birds. At that point the investigation ended. The MBTA provided agents in the field with the authority to work with industry to develop cooperative solutions to eliminate or alleviate bird deaths. Agents have the intelligence, expertise, and local knowledge to initiate investigations, cooperate with the private sector to develop bird friendly solutions, and monitor the success of these efforts.

Just after we concluded the meeting Mr. Jorjani arrived. He asked Ms. Navarro for her takeaway from the meeting. She succinctly stated that government and industry could work together to eliminate or reduce bird deaths and that I thought it would be a mistake to remove the authority of the field agents to investigate and prosecute industrial bird deaths. Mr. Jorjani invited me to further meetings on the subject. My impression was that I did not waste my time. Jorjani was aware of my involvement with the FMC case, the Department of Interior was being forced to reconsider its opinion, and he had expected the Department of Interior to receive substantial criticism of its opinion.

Audubon Files Suit to Restore MBTA Protections

The Prince Georges Audubon Society along with the National Audubon Society and other organizations tried to persuade the Department of Interior to change its opinion eliminating the protections of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to industrial actions causing bird deaths. I personally met with the Department of Interior's Solicitor General's staff to provide reasons to change this new policy. David Yarnold, President of National Audubon, and others personally met with Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, for the same purpose. These meetings and other efforts failed to change this policy. On May 24, 2018 the National Audubon Society and other groups filed suit in the Southern District of New York challenging this attack on the MBTA. The significance of filing suit in that jurisdiction is that it is part of the Second Circuit Federal Appeals Court and bound by that circuit's precedent decisions. The Second Circuit has upheld the application of the MBTA to bird deaths caused by industrial processes. There is a conflict among different federal appeals court circuits on this issue. If this litigation is not settled, regardless of the outcome before the trial court or in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, there is a substantial likelihood the Supreme Court may accept the case to resolve the conflict among the different circuits.

Kenneth Cohen, President

Prince Georges Audubon Society

MD Birders in the News

In June, MOS member George Jett was honored for his contribution to conservation by Rainforest Trust. His many decades of supporting conservation efforts led to the honor of having a non-venomous, snail-sucking snake named after him. *Dipsa georgejetti*, along with two other species of snail-sucking snakes, previously undiscovered by researchers were first described by Alejandro Arteaga (Arteaga et al. 2018).

"It is truly an honor to be recognized by Rainforest Trust, which in their 30 years have protected over 18,000,000 acres," said George Jett. George was one of three people to be recognized for conservation work by Rainforest Trust. Dr. Robert Ridgely and Dr. Bev Ridgely were also honored.

George Jett has been a MOS member for many decades and has worked at the Environmental Protection Agency for 30 years.

Resources:

<https://www.rainforesttrust.org/news/>

<https://zookeys.pensoft.net/article/24523/list/9/>

Are you, or someone you know, an MD Birder making headlines? Tell us about it! Contact the Editor: orientta.candela@gmail.com

Nine Tips for Greener Yard Work

Maryland Biodiversity Project

Summer is winding down, so we know there's a lot to do around the yard. Here are some ideas from Maryland Biodiversity Project (MBP) on how to make your late summer yard work greener and more biodiversity friendly! Remember, wherever you spend your time this summer, be sure to document your local flora and fauna for Maryland Biodiversity Project (<https://www.marylandbiodiversity.com/>). You can submit your photo submissions via Flickr (<https://www.flickr.com/groups/marylandbiodiversityproject/>) and read daily natural history updates from the project on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/MarylandBiodiversity/>).

Nine Tips for Greener Yard Work

1. Landscape with native plants. Here is a great resource from the Maryland Native Plant Society (MNPS), a non-profit organization that we highly recommend: <http://www.mdflora.org/publications/nurseries.html>.
2. Limit — or better yet, completely avoid — fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.

3. Collect water in a rain barrel for use in your garden.
4. Replace some of your lawn with garden areas, especially planted with native plants.
5. Water deeply. A single, deep soaking (1 to 1/2 hours) is more efficient than frequent brief watering sessions.
7. Use a drip system. This slowly and efficiently provides small amounts of water directly to plants root zones. This is my family's big change so far this season.
8. Never dump chemicals like gas, oil, and paint in your yard.
9. Plant a tree. Even better, plant an oak tree!

Oak trees are almost certainly the most beneficial genus of trees to local wildlife. In addition to the acorns that feed birds and mammals, oak trees are hosts to an astonishing variety of butterflies and moths. This means each tree is creating more native pollinators, as well as creating more food for migrant and nesting songbirds.

It is my opinion that we think incorrectly about bird migration. Our long-distance migrants — many of which will soon be bound for Central America, South America, and the Caribbean — are not our species that leave for the cold winter. They are tropical species that come north for an amazing seasonal abundance of food here in the temperate zone. That seasonal abundance is, without question, insects! Specifically, caterpillars. Specifically, moth caterpillars. Eastern forests in spring and summer are an explosion of neotropical migrant bird food — and oaks are the best supermarket around! Hooray for oaks! Hooray for moths!

Here's something cool about Maryland Biodiversity Project. Many of the species pages highlight the relationships between species, such as what butterflies and moths use different host plants. Check out some oaks to see all the species we have noted so far using various species. Here's the URL for White Oak: <https://www.marylandbiodiversity.com/viewSpecies.php?species=1544>. Search for any other species in the top-right, including using common names, scientific names, banding codes, weird synonyms, and even Hedges numbers for moths. Enjoy!

Please tell us your favorite ideas and success stories on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/MarylandBiodiversity/>)! Remember, even small changes can have significant benefits to wildlife, local watershed health, and a cleaner Chesapeake Bay.

Bill Hubick, Co-Founder
Maryland Biodiversity Project (MBP)

New Website for MOS

Many of you have heard that MOS has been developing a new website. After many months and hours of work, we hope it will be "live" by the time you receive this newsletter. The URL is the similar to our old site <https://mdbirds.org>, but the look and feel is completely different. Most of the original content is still there but organized differently so you may have to search a bit until you're familiar with the layout. One of the biggest enhancements is an online calendar showing all the scheduled fieldtrips and meetings that are listed in the Yellowthroat. You can search by several different criteria and date ranges. Another feature is ability to show pictures taken by members who are photographers; we've used a number of pictures already and will solicit more as time goes along.

Stay tuned for information about the new members portal where members will be able to create an account and pay dues online. Future articles will give more background about the development and other aspects of the site. Please check out the new website when it goes live. Your feedback and suggestions are welcome.

Tom Strikwerda, Webmaster (new site)
Maryland Ornithological Society

Maryland Fall Count 2018

The annual Fall Seasonal Bird Count sponsored by MOS will be held on the weekend of Sept. 15-16 in the Maryland-DC area. The MOS Board has left the choice of day to local chapters and coordinators. In areas without an identified coordinator, individual parties submit their results directly to Chuck Stirrat, the Statewide Coordinator.

Anyone can participate, no matter your skill level. Each pair of eyes helps, plus it can be a great learning experience and a lot of fun. The results of the count will appear in an article in the Spring 2019 issue of Maryland Birdlife.

The guidelines for this count are the same as those used for all seasonal counts. Local coordinators will assign volunteers to areas, honoring requests whenever possible. Party leaders are responsible for tracking party miles and times, names of participants, and documentation of unusual sightings.

A new checklist compilation form is available on the MOS website <https://mdbirds.org>, it includes common species found in Maryland during the fall. Those species on the list requiring further written documentation are

The Maryland Yellowthroat

noted with asterisks *. (Note: all write-ins require full details.)

The fall counts, dates, and compilers (that were confirmed by the calendar deadline) are listed in the MOS calendar, located in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. A list of the county coordinators can also be accessed on the MOS website. Anyone already organizing a count who is not included, or who is interested in volunteering as a coordinator for a county currently without a coordinator, is encouraged to contact the Statewide Coordinator.

Deadline for submitting completed reports to your county/chapter coordinator is Oct. 1, 2018. County compilers are asked to submit compilations to the state coordinator by Oct. 15.

If you do not have web access or are interested in counting in a county without a coordinator, contact the Statewide Coordinator. Individual parties or other groups (e.g. Hawk Watch sites, field trips) who count in areas without a coordinator, but have data for the count dates, are asked to submit their data along with details on what area was covered, participants, and coverage statistics to the Statewide Coordinator by Oct. 15.

Join the fun and have a great day birding!

Chuck Stirrat, Statewide Coordinator
13318 Hunt Ridge, Ellicott City, MD 21042-1155
410-531-2417
stirrbird@outlook.com

Fall Work Weekends**Irish Grove**

 Our help is needed on Saturday and/or Sunday Nov. 3-4 at our Irish Grove Sanctuary in Somerset County. The house, outbuildings and trails at our largest Sanctuary need attention.

Some projects include:

- Repairing the pole barn roof
- Replacing the screen windows on the pavilion
- Painting the pole barn
- Repairing the lookout
- Cleaning and marking the trails

Amenities

There are a limited number of beds available for overnight stays in the Irish Grove house, but there is ample space on the lawn to pitch tents. You also can opt to stay in a hotel in nearby Crisfield. Outhouses and an indoor bathroom are available on site. There is an outdoor

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shower and an indoor bath tub. Lunch and dinner will be provided on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday.



Chandler Robbins helping out during a work weekend at Irish Grove.

Carey Run/CERSRR

 Join fellow birders and outdoor enthusiasts Saturday and/or Sunday Sept. 15-16 as we spruce up two of our sanctuaries in beautiful Western Maryland. The Carey Run Sanctuary and the Chandler and Eleanor Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run, both located near Frostburg, are in need of maintenance.

Some projects include:

- Painting the deck, railings and window trim
- Repairing the gutters
- Improving the driveway by adding gravel
- Hanging signs along property boundaries
- Adding treatments to the farmhouse windows to keep birds safe
- Blazing trees for new paths
- Removing invasive plant species
- Improving the parking area

Amenities

There are a limited number of beds available for overnight stays in the Carey Run farmhouse and there is ample space on the lawn to pitch tents. You also can opt to stay in a hotel in nearby Frostburg or Grantsville. Full bathrooms with working showers are available on site. Lunch and dinner will be provided on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday.

How to Sign Up

If you would like to participate in the work weekend, please send an email to Sanctuary Committee Chair Dominic Nucifora: d.nucifora@yahoo.com. Please include the following information:

- Name and number of volunteer(s)
- Whether you plan to stay the night at the Sanctuary
- Where you would prefer to sleep (house/farmhouse or your own tent on the lawn)
- Whether you intend to eat the meals provided or on your own

You will then be directed to an online sign-up sheet for the different projects that are planned.

Thank you for playing an active role in habitat conservation!

Dominic Nucifora, Chair
Sanctuary Committee
d.nucifora@yahoo.com



Volunteers break for lunch at Carey Run.

The Legacy of Bud Taylor

The *Legacy of Bud Taylor*, presented by Dr. Matthew Perry. Our region lost an esteemed wildlife artist when John W. Taylor died last October at age 86. Known to all as "Bud," he was a beloved and treasured member of MOS and the Anne Arundel Bird Club.

An accomplished wildlife artist, his career started with commissions from the National Geographic Society and the National Wildlife Foundation, leading to his self-employment as a wildlife artist. He authored two books published by Johns Hopkins Press: *Birds of the Chesapeake* and *Chesapeake Spring*, designed Maryland's first deer and trout stamps, and was selected as the artist for Maryland's first Waterfowl Stamp in 1974.

He won the Duck Stamp contest in 1979 and was selected in 1984 as the winner of the Florida Duck Stamp contest. His life and work were documented on Maryland Public Television's *Maryland Outdoors*. His later years were spent painting in his studio, working primarily with oils.

Dr. Perry, emeritus scientist at Patuxent Wildlife Re-

search Center and long-time friend of Bud, will share Taylor's influence on protecting the Chesapeake Bay landscapes, even beyond his well-known paintings.

"Many were educated by Bud and carried his message to Annapolis and other political venues to help improve the quality of the Bay," said Perry. "He was a man with a conscience who was quick to discuss the importance of quality habitat."

Learn more about this multi-faceted man and his impact on conservation Tuesday Sept. 11. See the MOS Calendar.

Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee

7/24/18

The MD/DCRC held its Annual Meeting on March 24, 2018. The following are highlights:

Membership

The committee would like to thank the three members who are rotating off their three-year terms for their committee service. These members are: Kathy Calvert, Tim Carney and Matt Hafner (as a voting member). The three members beginning three-year terms are: Marcia Balestri, Mike Hudson, and Dan Small. Matt Hafner was re-elected as the committee Chair (non-voting), and Phil Davis was re-elected as Secretary.

MD and DC Official Lists. An earlier accepted 1993 Maryland record of "Guillemot, sp." was replaced by a 2018 "upgraded" accepted record of Black Guillemot. The species total on the Official List of the Birds of Maryland, therefore, remains at 452. Last year, the committee accepted a DC record of Sabine's Gull and added it to the Official DC list. This record raised the species total on the DC list to 340.

MD and DC Review Lists

The MD and DC Review Lists indicate for which species documentation is desired for a committee review.

MD Review List Changes

The committee changed the status of several Maryland species with respect to where within the state they are reviewable, if observed (i.e., MD/DCRC Category 4, range-based reviews). One notable change is that **Common Raven** is now reviewable on the Eastern Shore, south of Cecil County. The other species whose range-based review status was changed by the committee are: Piping Plover, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Common Eider, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, Long-

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billed Dowitcher, Red Knot, Painted Bunting, Brant, King Rail, Summer Tanager, Black-capped Chickadee, and Ruffed Grouse. Check the posted MD Review List or see pages 33-34 of the committee's Annual Meeting minutes for the detailed changes and rationale.

The committee changed the general status of **Ring-necked Pheasant** to "Extirpated Exotic" ("Xx") since there are no longer any known breeding populations in Maryland. Future sightings will be presumed to be of "non-established" exotic (i.e., escaped or released) origins.

Several changes were made to the MD Subspecies Review List, including adding **Scopoli's (Cory's) Shearwater** to the list (pending a future split); and removing, or suspending, **Greater White-fronted Goose subspecies** from the list due to issues with the current state of knowledge of its identification, distribution, and taxonomy.

DC Review List Changes

Mississippi Kite was removed from the DC Review List since it now breeds in northern VA, only a few miles away from DC.

The complete set of the committee's Annual Meeting Minutes/Business Report and all the committee's data-based web reports can be found on the MOS-MD/DCRC web site.

Status Report

The Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC) has reached the following record decisions since the last committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report covers MD/DCRC review packages 173 through 174. MD/DCRC report numbers are in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. A new "state" species, Black Guillemot, was accepted for Maryland, which is an "upgrade" of an earlier record of Guillemot, species. Therefore, the total number of species on the Official Lists of the Birds of Maryland remains at 452. The District of Columbia list total is unchanged at 340 species.

More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web pages at the following URL:

<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcindex.html>

MD Records Accepted

Pink-footed Goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus* [MD/2018-011] Ridgley, Caroline County. 17-Feb-2018 through 18-Feb-2018. One bird.

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Tufted Duck, *Aythya fuligula* [MD/2018-021] Swan Harbor Farm Park, Havre de Grace, Harford County. 23-Feb-2018 through 26-Feb-2018. One adult male.

Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus* [MD/2018-005] Potomac River, Luke, Allegany County. 24-Jan-2018 through 24-Feb-2018. One female.

Barrow's Goldeneye, *Bucephala islandica* [MD/2017-087] Elms Environmental Education Center, Dameron, Saint Mary's County. 17-Dec-2017 through 22-Feb-2018. One adult male.

Western Grebe, *Aechmophorus occidentalis* [MD/2018-010] South Point, Berlin, Worcester County. 02-Feb-2018. One bird.

Eurasian Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto* [MD/2018-022] Bowie, Prince George's County. 16-Apr-2018. One bird.

Clapper Rail, *Rallus crepitans* [MD/2014-088] Annapolis, Anne Arundel County. 16-Apr-2014. One adult female.

Clapper Rail, *Rallus crepitans* [MD/2014-089] Swan Harbor Farm Park, Havre de Grace, Harford County. 01-May-2014 through 16-May-2014. One bird.

Clapper Rail, *Rallus crepitans* [MD/2014-091] Patterson Park, Baltimore City, Baltimore County. 01-May-2014 through 02-May-2014. One bird.

Clapper Rail, *Rallus crepitans* [MD/2014-090] Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Harford County. 06-Oct-2014. One bird, possibly juvenile, Atlantic subspecies.

Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinicus* [MD/2018-014] Fort Smallwood Park, Pasadena, Anne Arundel County. 26-Apr-2018 through 09-May-2018. One adult.

***Black Guillemot**, *Cephus grylle* [MD/2018-004] Ocean City Inlet, Ocean City, Worcester County. 20-Jan-2018. One immature.

Black-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla* [MD/2016-057] Rocky Gap State Park, Flintstone, Allegany County. 19-Nov-2016. One bird.

Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2017-070] Baltimore Harbor, Baltimore City, Baltimore County. 15-Oct-2017 through 17-Oct-2017. One adult female.

Carolina Chickadee, *Poecile carolinensis* [MD/2017-023] Jennings Randolph Lake, Bloomington, Garrett County. 06-May-2017 through 20-May-2017. One bird.

Carolina Chickadee, *Poecile carolinensis* [MD/2018-023] Jennings Randolph Lake, Bloomington, Garrett County. 04-May-2018. One bird.

Harris's Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula* [MD/2017-077] Anacostia River Trail, Bladensburg, Prince George's County. 12-Nov-2017 through 09-May-2018. One non-breeding adult.

Black-throated Gray Warbler, *Setophaga nigrescens* [MD/2018-013] Havre de Grace, Harford County. 21-Mar-2018 through 13-Apr-2018. One bird.

Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana* [MD/2018-015] Ocean City, Worcester County. 02-May-2018. One non-breeding adult male.

MD Records Not Accepted

Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2017-021] Chesapeake Bay, Breezy Point, Calvert County. 29-Apr-2017. One adult.

Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2017-079] Ocean City Inlet, Ocean City, Worcester County. 14-Nov-2017. Two adults.

Gyrfalcon, *Falco rusticolus* [MD/2017-088] Violettes Lock, Seneca, Montgomery County. 13-Dec-2017. One bird.

Lark Bunting, *Calamospiza melanocorys* [MD/2017-069] Hagerstown, Washington County. 25-Sep-2017. One immature male.

DC Records Accepted

Clapper Rail, *Rallus crepitans* [DC/2015-027] Capitol Hill. 24-Apr-2015. One adult.

DC Records Not Accepted

Mississippi Kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis* [DC/2017-053] Chain Bridge. 09-Jul-2017. One bird.

Phil Davis, Secretary
Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee

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Book Review: Far from Land: The Mysterious Lives of Seabirds

Michael Brooke. Princeton, 2018.

I suspect that a relative and hearty few MOS members are seasoned pelagic birders. I can count the number of my own offshore birding trips on the fingers of one hand. Even so, I also suspect that most of us landlubbers are intrigued by albatrosses, petrels, and shearwaters — seabirds that normally are only seen “far from land.” The title and subject matter of Michael Brooke’s book almost instinctively draws us in for an anticipated good read. The book delivers in some ways if you have a passion for detail and the patience to sort through a lot of it. But if you are seeking an entertaining summary of seabird ecology that is infused with interesting examples and what a colleague of mine used to call “oh-my” stories, this may not be the book for you.

Seabirds admittedly are hard to study. Much of their life is spent far from land and the inquiring eyes of researchers. Most breed in colonies on oceanic islands that, despite the immense numbers of individuals of some species, are themselves remote and unfamiliar. The world map inside the front and back cover identifies many of the islands mentioned in the text, but it is not the best companion to that text. Some islands groups (e.g., the Crozets at 47 degrees S latitude) are not identified and there is no latitude/longitude grid to help appreciate their location. I dare say that most of these locations are so unfamiliar that a photographic survey would have helped the reader understand the difficulties of seabird research even when that research takes place on land. Photos, however, including an eight-page color insert, are reserved for a selection of the birds themselves.

Brooke’s introductory chapter begins by surveying the “seabirds” he will cover. The range includes penguins; tubenoses (albatrosses, fulmars, shearwaters, gadfly and storm petrels, prions, and diving petrels); the group that includes gannets, tropicbirds, frigatebirds, and cormorants; plus, the gulls, terns, jaegers, and skuas; some shorebirds; and finally the auks. That is a very wide net, indeed, and it presages the difficulties a reader will encounter comparing apples and oranges in the ensuing chapters.

One important inclusion in the introduction is a survey of the often demanding and remarkably ingenious methods for studying seabird ecology. Even on land, seabird studies require an incredible level of commitment and patience. Researchers may spend days on remote

islands to record the nocturnal comings and goings of petrels and shearwaters or, even more difficult, to retrieve a geolocator strapped to an individual bird among many thousands at a breeding colony. More ingenious are the devices used to deduce actual seabird behavior in the field. In addition to geologgers that record global position (with varying degrees of accuracy), data loggers have been invented. Data loggers enable estimates of how much time a bird spends in the air and on the water, whether the latter is spent resting or feeding, and, if the last, how deep it dives and when during the dive it is actually consuming food. Brooke has been there and done that with regard to many modern techniques, and his explanations convey his enthusiasm as well as his personal authority.

The following chapters are organized around themes rather than particular species. They begin with a survey of how various seabirds undertake their first journeys away from home. This is logically followed by a chapter that attempts to unravel what the birds do, during what may be many years, between leaving home and their first attempts at breeding with a mate they will keep for life. We then enter the world of adult birds, beginning with seasonal migrations between breeding and wintering areas and winding up with how birds forage during the breeding season when they are tied closer to home – and to land. We are next treated to an exposé on how seabird flight takes advantage of wind and waves. Finally, we learn how seabirds can take advantage of currents and global circulation patterns to increase the likelihood of successful feeding activity.

These chapter themes are intriguing and, like the title of the book itself, they tend to draw us in. Unfortunately, however, they become mired in detail, a litany of examples from different species that quickly becomes befuddling. For example, the chapter on Adult Migrations comingles the long-distance movements of the Red-necked Phalarope, Arctic Tern, Black-legged Kittiwake, Ivory Gull, Cooke's Petrel, South Polar Skua, Cory's Shearwater, Murphy's Petrel (the author's own research), Manx Shearwater, Wandering Albatross, and Marconi and Rockhopper Penguins. It turns out that each species exhibits, what appears to be, unique behavior. For example, Cory's Shearwaters from a single colony on the Savage Islands in the Canaries off Africa, they winter in restricted locations ranging from the Benguela Current (off South Africa) to the central South Atlantic, to the Northwest Atlantic (off Labrador). Some even switch locations year to year, entailing a separation of up to 4,000 miles from where they spent the previous winter. It

is next to impossible to tease out any generalized adaptive strategy from such a plethora and diversity of examples gleaned from species that are so different ecologically.

As an evolutionary biologist, I am fascinated by seabirds. Despite a low reproductive rate (only a single egg per nest, with incubation periods of up to 10 weeks and nearly a year to fledgling stage for the largest albatrosses) some species have evolved to become arguably the most numerous birds in the world. This has been fostered through their selection of remote islands on which to breed predator-free and, as Brooke documents again and again, their demonstrated ability to exploit the biological productivity of the world ocean. At the same time, many species have become highly specialized and therefore vulnerable to even minor changes in their environment. Brooke's final chapter "The Clash" documents the disturbing interface between human activity and seabird survival. Encounters with fishing activity are bad enough, but the introduction of alien species to the islands where seabirds formerly bred without predation can destroy the reproductive success of whole colonies, if not whole species. What's more, as numerous as species like Sooty Shearwater and Wilson's Storm Petrel may be, many other species are restricted to only a few breeding locations – consequently, they are globally rare and endangered. It remains to be seen how many seabird species retain enough adaptive flexibility to survive the rapid advances of climate change.

Michael Brooke's thoroughly researched book documents the great range of behavioral diversity that seabirds exhibit. That diversity gives us some assurance that many species will persist to grace that 70% of earth that is under water, even if, in order to see and appreciate them, we will still need to travel – yes – far from land.

Wayne Bell, Talbot Chapter

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Q&A With MOS President, Robin Todd

We welcome incoming MOS president Robin Todd as he begins his two-year term Sept. 1, 2018. *The Maryland Yellowthroat* interviewed him for this introduction to the MOS membership.

The Maryland Yellowthroat: When and why did you join MOS?

Robin Todd: I joined MOS soon after moving to the US from England in 1979. I joined the Baltimore Bird Club to learn about local birds and go on field trips. I remember the first trip I intended to go on was cancelled because of rain, and I wondered, "Is this group fair-weather birders?"

YT: Before you were elected Vice President of MOS, you served as president of the Howard County Bird Club.

RT: We moved to Howard County in 1989 and joined that club. I was chapter president from 2014- 2016. Members there told me, "if you accept the presidency, you'll be taking control of a well-oiled machine." That was true; it's a very energetic group.

YT: Where are you from and where have you lived?

RT: I was born in Totnes, a small town in South Devon. I studied biology and environmental science at the University Lancaster in '68, just south of the Lake District and near the Yorkshire Downs. I joined the hiking club and did some lovely hikes.

I lived seven years in the Grand Caymans working for the Voluntary Service Overseas, the UK version of the Peace Corps, doing mosquito control. I began my PhD research on biological control of the Black Salt Marsh Mosquito. I met my wife Hyacinth, who worked as a nurse. I was offered a job in the US by the vacationing owner of a Baltimore company, Insect Control and Research (later, i2L Research). Hyacinth and I moved back to the UK for 9 months while I wrote up my thesis for the University of Reading and waited for the green card process to go through.

I worked an entomologist for i2L until 2015, and recently retired as Senior Regulatory Consultant to Technology Sciences Group.

YT: What sparked your interest in birds?

RT: My dad had a great ear for bird song. In the early part of the 20th century, he collected nests and eggs — a British pastime. He had stopped collecting by the time I came along, where I grew up in South Devon, a lovely coun-

tryside. I would walk with him next to these huge banks along the lanes — great places for passerines. He'd see a little trail of leaves and say, "Look! there's a wren's nest!" I wasn't too interested then, but once, when the River Dart froze over, I spotted tufted ducks, and ran home to tell him. He sent me back out with a pair of binoculars. My uncle also knew birds, and it was a point of pride to be able to identify what bird was calling.

YT: What are some of your favorite places to bird in Maryland?

RT: The Middle Patuxent Environmental Area and the Howard County conservancy.

YT: What are your greatest concerns about Maryland birdlife today?

RT: Climate change and feral cats. Also, the lack of concern for the environment among our political leaders.

YT: What do you look forward to as you begin the next two years?

RT: Getting to know our various chapters better, visiting all the sanctuaries, and supporting our conservation efforts.

Barbara Johnson, Past President
Maryland Ornithological Society

Saturday and Sunday Sept. 15-16*****HELP NEEDED*****

Join fellow birders and outdoor enthusiasts, in support of MOS by participating in a Work Weekend. Details on our upcoming Work Weekends are on pages 8 and 9. For more information, contact **Sanctuary Committee Chair Dominic Nucifora: d.nucifora@yahoo.com**.

The annual Fall Seasonal Bird Count, sponsored by MOS, will be held on the weekend of Sept. 15-16. Birders of all levels are encouraged to participate. Join the fun! For more information, contact **Statewide Coordinator, Chuck Stirrat: stirrbird@outlook.com**.



YMOS Dominates the World Series of Birding — Again

On Saturday May 12, sixteen Maryland students participated in the 35th World Series of Birding in New Jersey. With students ranging from Garrett County to the Eastern Shore, two high school teams and two middle school teams competed in the 24-hour Big Day, trying to find as many species as possible. The two high school teams, not only, won first and second place in the high school division, but recorded almost 20 species more than the highest scoring adult team. The two middle school teams placed second and third in the middle school division, actually scoring higher than most of the adult teams. While a beautiful day at times, two major thunderstorms, and a tornado warning, kept totals down.

The YMOS "Marsh Gigglers" comprised of Daniel Irons, Patrick Newcombe, Joshua Heiser, and Jonathan Irons, placed first in the High School

Division with 199 species found statewide. In second, with a total of 198, only one species less, the YMOS "Mighty Merlin's" included Sam Miller, Jerald Reb, Jasper Merry, and Aaron Graham. A team of mentors and drivers consisting of Mike Irons, Bryan Newcombe, Rob Miller, and Cliff Graham, assisted these teams.

The middle school teams were restricted to a much smaller geographic area. The YMOS "We Spotted Sandpipers" recorded 156 species. Coached by Stella Tea and with Kevin Reb as driver, this team was composed of Josie Kalbfleisch, Nathan Tea, Aaron Reb, and Hannes Leonard. With 144 species, the YMOS "The Moor(hen), the Harrier" team was made up of Tully Hochhäuser, Max Ramey, and Gabe Evans. They were driven by Tom Ramey with George Radcliffe as coach. Oliver Patrick, another YMOS student, participated with an adult team this year, also did well.

The annual event draws birders from as far away as South Africa and Israel as well as serving as a major environmental fundraiser. Before the Big Day, the teams scouted potential areas and birds, with some students beginning the weekend before the event. For YMOS, the event caps off a year of trips and activities. Funds to get students to the event were raised in the March Birdathon. The students send their sincere thanks to all who supported their efforts.

George Radcliffe, YMOS

Any student interested in getting involved in any trips or the World Series itself, need simply show up on a trip. For more information, contact **George Radcliffe** at radclifg@gmail.com or by phone at **410-463-1669**.

The Strange World of Birdwatchers

I know I said it in the title, but don't you dare call them "birdwatchers." To put it simply, true bird aficionados do not just watch birds — they stalk them. They have a mission. They are "birders." Hardcore birders speak quietly and always carry a big walking stick, so as not to frighten the birds and to hopefully avoid tripping. They aspire to see as many bird species as possible in their lifetimes — they go at it every day — either talking about it, reading about it, or doing it. They never even mention a break.

True birders rise at the crack of dawn — 4:00 AM or earlier is a small price to pay in order to see that rare bird. For them, no worthwhile birding excursion can be accomplished with less than a four or five-hour drive, preferably over tough terrain, to a remote, uninhabited location — the birds don't like to make it easy on them. They repeat this process multiple times every week. After all, they quit those lousy jobs 20 years ago to pursue their passion. In fact, they miss weddings, birthday parties, funerals, and anniversaries in exchange for just the slimmest chance of glimpsing the species that would fill that hole in the all-important lifetime list. During bird migration season, don't count on seeing the birders — they are migrating along with the objects of their obsession. They think nothing of traveling across the country — even abroad — and they think less of climbing, canoeing, or helicoptering (so they can fly like the birds?) to attain their goal. However, they embark on these journeys not to explore the typical tourist attractions; nay, they make these treks to the remote biomes of the world, far removed from the Eiffel Tower or the

Coliseum. They buy boots almost as big as their will to trudge across the tall grass of the field, the thick brush (and poison ivy) of the forest, the knee-high waters of the stream, the dry sand of the desert that sinks with their every step, or the powdery snow of the mountain slope. They ensure that the lifetime list stays tucked conveniently in their back pockets, and they pull it out each time they detect a new species and jot it down. They vie with each other the way archrivals would on a sports field, and occasionally check off a bird that they "heard," "maybe heard," or "could've sworn" they heard, just to have a leg (or wing?) up on the competition. This is what birders live for: one-upping each other with their lifetime lists.

When birders set out on excursions, the gear they carry would suffice for the Exodus from Egypt. But their backpacks contain just the essentials for any birder: binoculars (with lenses as big as a mockingbird pie), a Bluetooth speaker (for playing the bird calls they spent hours downloading), an iPod (the source of the bird calls), and, how could I forget, The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds (that book alone accounts for most of the weight in that backpack — it's well worth it, though: a good birder consults it constantly). And on their heads, they sport one of those birder hats — you know, the ones with brims and neck panels.

When the perfect spot is finally reached — a shady area populated with just the right vegetation for a particular species of bird — the birder tucks himself in among the trees, bushes, reeds, or brush and initiates the bird calls (which issue from the iPod or from his or her own throat — birders practice the calls, to the chagrin of their spouses, at home).

As the calls float gently on the breeze, the birder waits, unmoving, for the perfect specimen to show itself. And waits. And waits. And THERE! Darn, the birder loses sight of it in the binoculars so, more waiting. And some more. And some more. The bird refuses to show itself again, its head camouflaged behind the vast greens, browns and purples of the landscape. The birder feels disgruntled but doesn't dream of giving up. The birder persists, on and on, waging a battle with patience, until the magnificent Cerulean Warbler is finally spied. The birder's eye follows the blue and white body with streaked breast and necklace through the binoculars and marvels, a grin of supreme satisfaction spreading across their face. And then the birder's hand reaches for that trusty lifetime list.

Submitted by Charles Hopkins, Talbot Chapter, on behalf of his grandson Christopher Semancik, High School Student, Georgetown Preparatory School

Any member is welcome to contribute articles, photos, or ideas that would be of interest to other birders. Do you have a perspective that you would like to share with the birding community? We would like to hear from you — even if you are apprehensive about submitting, please **contact the Editor** and we can guide you through the process:

orietta.candela@gmail.com



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Gerald And Carol's Great Florida Birding Road Trip

My wife Carol and I embarked on our first major road trip after she retired on January 1, driving 2,600 miles from Annapolis up and down the coasts of Florida from Feb. 22-March 26.

First stop was Charleston, SC where in the harbor we saw a Common Loon and some Ruddy Turnstones. Later we saw Brown Pelicans, Forster's Terns, three gull species, and bottle-nosed dolphins on a boat ride in the Charleston Harbor.

Next stop was Boynton Beach where we watched Limpkins in a nephew's back yard. At Wakodahatchee Wetlands we were lucky to view literally a thousand Limpkins nesting close-up by the boardwalk. There were also at least 100 nesting Wood Storks many with young close-up and a pair copulating in front of us. A Snowy Egret male in breeding plumage with brilliant red feet instead of golden slippers was a first for us.

We spent a full day birding the Everglades to Flamingo with Paul Bithorn and Jim Kushlan, local bird experts. Species seen included: Roseate Spoonbill, White-tailed Kite, Short-tailed Hawk, Purple Gallinule, Black-necked Stilt, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Blackpoll Warbler. We also saw many alligators, an American Crocodile, and manatees. We went out the next day on Biscayne Bay & saw dolphins and waterbirds.

On the way to the west coast a stop at Shark Valley at the North end of the Everglades had lots of alligators and plenty of birds. Also Brown Pelicans flying by and Sandpipers and Snowy Egrets on crowded Vanderbilt beach near our rental cottage.

I did a 3.5-hour nature walk with two Conservancy of Southwest Florida naturalists on a boardwalk through the mangroves to the Clam Pass Beach where we saw at least 150 Black Skimmers, many gulls and Royal and Sandwich Terns in a huge flock trying to find a sandy beach to land and loaf on, but Irma's erosion and the crowds would not allow the landing.

We were fortunate to see a good number of Swallow-tailed Kites migrating back to Florida from Central and S. America. On Sanibel Island on the road to Ding Darling NWR we saw a flock of 20 Swallow-tailed Kites directly overhead no more than 60 feet up. At Ding Darling, we saw my favorite, the Roseate Spoonbill, and also a displaying Reddish Egret.

We went out boating twice on the Caloosahatchee River above Ft. Myers with a local Audubon lobbyist, a 78 year-old retired State Department counter-terrorism dude, and saw roosting Roseate Spoonbills, many egrets and some Great Blue Herons.



We had a tour with a young master's student studying Burrowing Owls on Marco Island and the other big colony at Cape Coral. The research student explained that males were up guarding the female and young in their burrows all over the Island in residential areas. We were accompanied by the new Executive Director of Western Everglades Audubon who arranged the trip for us. We waded over to Tiger Tail Beach and saw more birds there including Black-bellied Plover.

Then, on to my brother Dan's house 26 miles below Tampa. We went to a nearby golf course riding carts to look for birds there, the only time anyone will see me on a golf course. We saw White Pelican, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Northern Shovelers, Blue-winged Teal, various herons and egrets, soft-shelled turtles and more.

Next was a 3 night visit to Weeki Wachee. We did a bird walk in a NWR off the Gulf and went kayaking 5-miles on the Weeki Wachee River. Manatees and raccoons were spotted along with waterbirds. On a 4-mile hike the next day we had a great view of a Barred Owl as it flew right over our heads. Locals have Sandhill Cranes with their chicks in their backyards.

Carol and I loved our 32-day retirement road trip and spent a lot of time with family, old friends, and made

some new friends while doing a lot of birding and other wildlife watching. Gerald Winegrad

May is migration time in OH and this year 6 of us returned to the Magee Marsh area for another dose of warblers. Going this year were Peter Hanan, and Bobbi Reichwein (AA & PG Chapters) Paul Speyser, Kim Hudyma (AA Chapter), Jean Wheeler (Harford Chapter) and Kathy Neugebauer, former Montgomery Chapter, and now an OH resident. We wasted no time getting to Magee and were not disappointed-Cape May, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue and Canada Warblers welcomed us as we walked the boardwalk. In all we had 20 species of Warbler plus a Sedge Wren the first afternoon. There are numerous birding spots in the Magee area: The Magee Estuary Trail along Maumee Conference Center, Howard Marsh (newly opened in April), Ottawa NWR , Black Marsh, & Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area to name the highlights and we hit them all. At Maumee we sought the nesting Screech Owls-we spotted adults and one fuzzy owlet. At Ottawa there is a wildlife drive that goes around numerous ponds where wildlife abounds. Highlights include Indigo Bunting, Pied-billed and Horned Grebes, Common Gallinule, Dunlin. Howard Marsh, recently opened, had limited species but has a lot of potential. Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area is managed for waterbird habitat (scopes recommended); the wooded area near the fishing pier has been a productive spot for warblers and other woodland birds. No matter where we bird we always return to Magee for a part of the day and it never disappoints, but rather surprises us-as with a Common Nighthawk perched on a tree branch. On our last morning we visited the Black Swamp Bird Observatory Gift Shop to check the feeders and were rewarded with excellent views of a Mourning Warbler, making the final warbler count 23*. Warbler Migration at Magee never disappoints.

Sagamore 2018

Five days in a Great Camp in the Adirondacks-what an experience for Jean Wheeler (Harford Co,) and Bobbi Reichwein (AA & PG Counties)! We signed up for a Road Scholar trip, "Feathers and Flora of the Northern Forest" held the last week of May at Sagamore Institute.

Sagamore, once the summer retreat of the Alfred Vanderbilt family, is now a National Historic Landmark that is neither a hotel, motel nor resort, but a non-profit "living museum," one that attempts to allow as many people as possible to learn more about Adirondack history, nature and the Gilded Age amid the rustic beauty of its wilderness location. Add to this feathers and flora and you have

a recipe for a perfect trip.

Two Audubon guides, John and Pat Thaxton, were our leaders on birding trips; the Road Scholar guide identified plants as they were spotted. Every evening the guides gave a short lecture about birds or bird related topics such as Birds of the Adirondacks and Climate Change & the Adirondack Species. The last full day of the camp Mark Manske, wild life rehabilitator, master falconer, and raptor bander spoke about his on-going study to save the American Kestrel. First as a high school teacher, he felt compelled to involve his students in the project, putting up boxes, monitoring boxes, collecting data. The project continues and he is now an instructor at Paul Smith College. He proudly showed off former students who were now scientists. During part 2 of his talk he introduced 4 raptors to the group: Harris Hawk, Eurasian Eagle Owl, Barn Owl, Gyrfalcon. The evening speaker was Gary Lee, retired Forest Ranger who has worked with the Adirondack Loon Conservation Program, monitoring & banding Loons.

Besides walks on the numerous trails at Sagamore, the group banded Ferd's Bog, Brown's Tract, & the Inlet Park. Fifty-four species were seen including great looks at Black-backed Woodpecker.

The only problematic part of the trip, was the cursed black flies! Don't make the trip without bug netting and a preparation called "Bye, Bye Black Fly." I think Jean would second my recommendation for this Road Scholar trip. The accommodations, meals, guides and ambiance were the best. Bobbi Reichwein

CARROLL COUNTY

The newly formed outreach group of the Carroll County Bird Club presented a workshop on "Backyard Birds" at the Church of the Ascension's free summer activities for children program on August 1st in Westminster.

Our class quickly filled up and the church asked us if we were willing to do two sessions to accommodate the waiting list. The answer, of course, was yes!

There was a total of 30 children of various ages in two sessions. We introduced the kids to some common birds that they might see in the yards (and on the church property on Court Street).

Participants were also able to paint and decorate a bird feeder or birdhouse with weather safe paints while learning a few things they can do to help their feathered friends.

Another one of our club members, Mary Beth Francis, did a workshop on “Splashy Bird Baths” earlier in the summer. It is very gratifying to see kids interested in birds. Don Jewell

CECIL COUNTY

It is not often one gets to meet a true modern day explorer and adventurer. The Cecil Bird Club hosts one such individual as a member. David Francis has been journeying to the Chimalapa wilderness of Mexico by himself annually for almost twenty years now. Once there he hires a local villager, though he speaks no Spanish, to guide him backpacking into the forest to document the vegetation and the wildlife he finds. As a former biology professor he has great insight into what he has found on his many excursions. David has documented his experiences in a new book, *The Laughing Olmec, A Guide to the Chimalapa Forest of Mexico* so you too can learn from his expertise and follow in his footsteps. His adventures can be found on Amazon currently.

Kim and Ken Drier took a quick trip south in June to Asheville, TN and the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. It is very cool to see Dark-eyed Juncos and Winter Wrens and then turn around to find Chestnut-sided and Hooded Warblers all on the same hike. Ken Drier

HARFORD COUNTY

BIRDING MOROCCO; Late Winter/Early Spring

In recent years Morocco has become an increasingly popular birding destination particularly for European Birders and should be for American Birders. Morocco is in northwest Africa bordered to the north by the Mediterranean sea and to the west by the Atlantic Ocean. It is an important stopping area for birds migrating from their wintering grounds in sub-Saharan Africa to their breeding grounds in Southern and Northern Europe.

Our birding started in the city of Marrakech. Marrakech is an old city and at the same time a modern one, in central Morocco with its southern skyline dominated by the snow-capped Atlas Mountains. The old city is very well preserved and well worth exploring. Around our hotel could be found House Bunting, Common Bulbul while overhead were Little Swift and Common and Pallid Swift. From Marrakech we travelled west by road to the Atlantic coast city of Agadir and the Souss Massa National Park. The park encompasses a large marsh formed by the Massa river delta. The marsh is a haven for gulls, egrets, ducks and shorebirds. Here can be seen Mediterranean, Slender-billed and Audouin’s Gull, Little and Cattle Egret, Spoonbill, Black-tailed Godwit, Redshank,

Greenshank, Little Stint, Green Sandpiper. The marsh and the scrubland along the coast is the home of the rare Bald Ibis; only about 500 of these birds exist. In this same area can be found the spectacular Moussier’s Redstart and elusive Black-crowned Tchager. From Agadir we travel east and south over the Atlas Mountains to the city of Ouarzazate. Crossing the Atlas Mountains the terrain changes from semi-arid to arid desert (somewhat incredulously at the time it was pouring with rain). The desert south of the mountains is flat and stony with high mesas very reminiscent of the American Southwest. A large reservoir at Ouarzazate is worth visiting for ducks, storks and shorebirds. In the desert east and south of Ouarzazate can be found the common Crested and Thekla Lark, less common Thick-billed and Bar-tailed Lark, Desert, Red-rumped and White-crowned Wheatear. Patches of denser scrub along the road are worth exploring for Desert and Scrub Warbler. Approaching the town of Rissani the stony desert changes to sand and sand dunes as we entered the Sahara desert. Land Cruiser trips into the Sahara found Crowned and Spotted Sandgrouse, Cream-colored Courser, Desert Sparrow and possibly the two most difficult birds to see; Egyptian Nightjar and Pharaoh Eagle Owl. From Rissani we traveled back to Marrakech and the Atlas mountains to the ski-resort of Oukaimeden (from desert to snow fields). Here we found Red-billed and Alpine Chough, Crimson-winged Finch, Dippers along the mountain streams and spectacular scenery.

Morocco is easy to travel with good roads and hotels, a long history, hugely variable ecosystems and one feels safe there. This trip was with Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Overall we had 156 species. David Larkin

Mary Murray, Education Chair, and Rachel Hebert, Youth Birding Chair, planned and delivered the first Harford Bird Club introduction to birding class on June 9.

“Birding 101” was a collaborative effort. The event was held at Susquehannock Wildlife Center with some of their members present. Bethany Vangrin, HCPL Librarian and HBC member, brought books and materials related to birds for every age. Social media and word of mouth resulted in 13 attendees made up of adults and children. Classroom time and activities were followed by a birding walk. With the aid of HBC volunteers, about 20 species were identified. Deb Stewart

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Club members reported globe-trotting bird travels from Alaska to Poland during the summer of 2018.

Bruce Beehler, author of *North on the Wing*, was back in the north woods: "In early June, I camped at Lake Nesowadnehunk, just west of Baxter State Park in central Maine. I was there to spend some time with the American Three-toed Woodpecker. There were quite a few eBird reports for this location. No luck. Had fabulous rain-free and bug-free weather, and biked the tote road on the west side of Baxter Park every morning — which passes through a nice patch of lowland boreal forest featuring singing Fox Sparrows and Bay-breasted Warblers, Spruce Grouse, and another dozen wood warblers on territory. The evenings were enlivened by the wilderness voices of American Bittern and Common Loon."

Karen and Bruce Cyr wrote: "While on a whale-watching trip to southeast Alaska, we kept an eye out for the local birds, and spotted several new to us. They included Pacific Loon, Harlequin Duck, Marbled Murrelet, Pigeon Guillemot, Varied Thrush, Stellar Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Oregon Junco. We were buzzed twice by Rufous Hummingbirds and serenaded by two Orange-crowned Warblers. And, of course, we enjoyed watching the many ravens and eagles."



Image Credit: John Fritts

John Fritts recently returned from a trip to Poland and Slovakia. "One of the highlights for me was seeing all the storks that populated the villages throughout the Carpathian mountains. I counted more than 50 storks during my travel. Locally, it is considered very good luck to have a stork roost on your home."

Tim & Lynn Friedlander wrote that they just got back from a two week vacation in Florida, which included a little summer birding. "The lakes in Lakeland, Polk County, offered a wide variety of water birds, including Purple Gallinule and Limpkin in large numbers. In our travels from central Florida to its Panhandle we saw numerous Mississippi and Swallow-tailed Kites. South of Tallahassee we had good birding in Wakulla Springs State

Park (boating) and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (drive out to the lighthouse), both in Wakulla County. Highlights of Wakulla Springs were Pied-billed Grebe and Common Gallinule families, and one Least Bittern sighting. St. Marks NWR offered a variety of terns, Black Skimmers, Roseate Spoonbills, plovers, dowitchers, Willets, and Clapper Rails." Chris Wright

TALBOT COUNTY

George, Liz and Harry Armistead were in Tanzania, Kenya, and Iceland, March 26-April 13, 2018, nineteen straight, active days with early wake-ups. It was a Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures/American Birding Association trip with 117 participants. Each day groups of 12 were led by a birding leader and 2 local drivers in 2 big safari jeeps. The leaders were excellent (one being George, but I'm not recusing myself), several of whom favor shorts and flip flops the entire time.

Some of the areas visited include:

KENYA: Amboseli N.P. (with great views of Mount Kilimanjaro).

TANZANIA: Tarangire N.P., Serengeti N.P., Olduvai Gorge, Ngorongoro (crater or caldera) C.A., Arusha N.P., Lake Manyara N. P.

ICELAND: Reykjavik area.

I had 319 species in Africa and 29 in Iceland, for a total of 348 species.

There must be hundreds of lodges in these 2 African countries. Ecotourism is hugely important in East Africa. Landscapes are vast, immense.

Bird names are particularly interesting.

CISTICOLAS. Part of the litany of LBJs (little brown jobs) found in Africa. There are species named Singing, Trilling, Rattling, Wailing, Winding, Croaking, Siffling, and Zitting Cisticolas. Emphasis is on the TI not the CO. CistiCOLA is the soft drink of champions.

EPONYMIC SPECIES, (named after people) abound in East Africa. Here are some: Hildebrandt, Shelley, Abdim, Ruppell, Wahlberg, Ayres, Verreaux, Montagu, Hartlaub, Allen, Kittlitz, Temminck, Schalow, Levaillant, Klaas, d'Arnaud, Fischer, Meyer, Retz, Hunter, Waller, Sharpe, Kenrick, Reichenow, Holub, von der Decken, Speke, Jackson, Peters, Jameson, Pringle, and Beesley. All 32 of these characters have entries in *The Eponym dictionary of birds* by Bo Beolens et al. (Bloomsbury, 2014, 624 pages). Subspecific, common, scientific, and even superseded names are all detailed in this marvelous reference book.

DOUBLE NAMES are common in this part of the

world, too. Here are some, derived from the excellent Rockjumper booklets, as were the eponyms listed above: Pond-Heron, Harrier-Hawk, Snake-Eagle, Hawk-Eagle, Chanting-Goshawk, Eagle-Owl, Bee-eater, Cuckooshrike, Sparrow-Lark, Scrub-Robin, Robin-Chat, Anteater-Chat, Grosbeak-Canary, Buffalo-Weaver, Quailfinch, and Sparrow-Weaver.

ALLITERATIVE BIRDS' NAMES: brubru, boubou, bulbul, babbler, and barbet, plus baboon.

A spectacular experience, yet, very disappointing in some respects. We drive many 100s of miles on dusty, remote roads, yet only see cheetahs three times, single black rhinos three times, and leopards twice. The rhinos, due to widespread poaching, are expected to become extinct in the wild soon. My favorite moment: seeing a group of 12 baby lions in a sort of creche.

At Amboseli, latitude 2 degrees South, our cabins look out over miles of grasslands - the only thing between us and Mt. Kilimanjaro. We had good views of the snow-fields, at 19,317 feet on Africa's highest mountain, the highest free-standing mountain anywhere. One evening we saw the snow under the full moon. The 2.2 sq. km. of glaciers are diminishing and will disappear soon due to global warming.

At Tarangire N.P. we saw 14 Yellow-spotted Hyraxes, several on the lodge roof. (Cute but extremely messy.) Strange that these mammals are related to elephants.

Indispensable books:

Kingdon, Jonathan. *The Kingdon Field Guide To African Mammals*. 2nd ed. Princeton U. Pr. 2015. 640p.

Stevenson, Terry & John Fanshawe. *Birds of East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi*. illus. by Brian Small, John Gale & Norman Arlott. Princeton U. Pr. 2002. 602p.

April 12, Thursday. During the flight from Amsterdam to NYC the poor, unaccompanied man in the seat behind me dies, hundreds of miles out over the Atlantic, at 36,000 feet and 503 knots. The flight is consequently diverted to Iceland. Suddenly KLM has to secure lodging for 300. Wife, Liz, says "You always wanted to go to Iceland." For this inconvenience the passengers were compensated by KLM @ 600 EUROS.

ICELAND INTERLUDE, April 13, Friday. BONUS BIRDING! We secure the good services of driver/guide Asgeir Johannes Thorvaldsson. We drove west for 4 hours, from Reykjavik to a rocky coastal area through barren landscapes of black lava along the Reykjanes Pen-

insula to a lighthouse, Reykjanesviti, past large, steaming, hot springs and geothermal features at Gunnuhver. We see a big colony of nesting kittiwakes and fulmars, incubating. There's a huge statue of the Great Auk next to the viewing place for these breeding colonies.

Those of us who have trouble spelling, and pronouncing, Reykjavik, are up against it, with other nearby locales, such as Drykkjusteinn, Hvitskeggshvammur, Klofningahraun, and Graenavatnsegglar, and these don't even have diacritical marks. This was quite the adventure.

George Armistead, Marshall Iliff, and Laura Erickson were keynote speakers at the Acadia Birding Festival, Mount Desert Island, Maine, in June. Harry Armistead

TRI-COUNTY

Marcia Balestri (Tri-county) and Kathy Calvert (Frederick) traveled to northeast India with Field Guides on their inaugural tour of this beautiful and fascinating area. The 3-week trip covered a great range of habitats, from the elephant grass of the Assam plains to several of the high Himalayan passes and the foothills in between. The scenery was stunning, and there were so many highlights — a ride on an elephant to look for tigers, rafting down the Kameng River, and birding at the Eagle-nest Sanctuary through untouched Himalayan forest, an area with over 450 species of birds. Most everyone on the tour agreed that the Fire-tailed Sunbird was the favorite bird of the trip. And the mammals weren't bad either — we all had great looks at Asian Elephant, Asian One-horned Rhinoceros, Wild Boar, Asian Water Buffalo, various deer, Rhesus Macaque, and Hoolock Gibbon. Truly a memorable experience! Marcia Balestri

Barbara and Earl Dolan went on safari to Kenya and Tanzania in May. Barbara writes — "Our fantastic guide Andre Beron from Rockjumper Birding Tours found 477 species of birds and 60 species of mammals and reptiles for our small group of 5. Not only did we see the iconic "Big 5" but we were lucky enough to witness a Cheetah bring down a small wildebeest in the Serengeti! It was an awesome trip". Barbara Dolan

Although it wasn't a birding trip, Mary Huebner and Ellen Lawler saw about 50 species of birds on a Road Scholar tour, "Old Masters: Art Treasures of Holland by River" in early April. They spent a week on a small barge which traveled along canals from Amsterdam to Haarlem, Leiden, The Hague, Delft, Rotterdam and Gouda before returning to Amsterdam. They found barging to be a very comfortable and relaxing way to observe birds as well as the lovely scenery. Among the highlights were

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

White stork, Lapwing, Sparrow hawk, Barnacle goose, Black-tailed godwit, Great spotted woodpecker, Blackcap and two non-natives, Egyptian goose and Ring-necked parrot. They kidded about seeing at least one Eurasian coot every day and Great crested grebes, Jackdaws, and Wood pigeons were almost as common. The tour was very well planned, the food was excellent and the company, most enjoyable. Highly recommended for those who enjoy visiting art museums and quaint towns as well as observing birds. Ellen Lawler

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Cheryl and Michael Saylor traveled to Tucson, AZ for a business trip in late February, and decided to add a few days of birding at the end. "Since we were unfamiliar with the area, we hired a birding guide found on the Tucson Audubon website.

Melody Kehl, our delightful guide, met us at 0700 on Sunday, February 18. We headed toward the Santa Rita Mountains. We stopped at a park, and even though it was a chilly morning we saw numerous Say's Phoebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Western Meadowlark. As we drove onward we passed rows of large pecan trees where we spotted Gila Woodpeckers, Chihuahuan Ravens, Cassin's Kingbirds, Ladderback Woodpeckers and a Lewis' Woodpecker. We saw numerous Red-tailed Hawks on the utility poles and American Kestrel on the wires.

At Madeira Canyon we parked along a stream. Melody told us that we might walk for 20-30 minutes without seeing or hearing a bird because they tended to flock. That is exactly what happened. After a nice walk along the stream we first saw a Red-naped Sapsucker followed by a beautiful Painted Redstart, a male Hepatic Tanager, Arizona Woodpecker, and Canyon Towhee. While sitting at a picnic table eating lunch we were visited by quite a few Mexican Jays looking for a handout. Luckily Melody had some almonds for them.

We had heard a rumor that there was a single male Elegant Tropic in the canyon, so after lunch we headed downstream from the parking lot. Lo and behold, we first heard and then spotted the beautiful bird. Descriptions do not do it justice. It is a beautiful large bird with a dark red breast, deep green back and a coppery tail. We were able to follow the bird for at least 30 minutes. We felt lucky to have seen this majestic bird.

Later we drove farther up the canyon and stopped at two homes where the owners had numerous feeders. We sat comfortably and watched Mexican wild turkeys, many different types of juncos, Lincoln and Rufous Sparrow

and Magnificent and Rufous Hummingbirds.

The next day we started at the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum-a must see. It was a zoo, botanical garden and desert all in one. We especially liked seeing the pretty Cactus Wren, the Arizona state bird. Later that day we drove to a waterfowl viewing area in southeast Arizona to see the many Sandhill Cranes that come to winter in the area. We were told that the water levels were low and there were fewer birds in the area than usual. We were happy to spot several Pyrrhuloxia and a large flock of Yellow-headed Blackbirds-quite a sight. Ducks in the area included Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Northern Shovelers, and Cinnamon Teal. A big surprise was a Great Horned Owl in a picnic pavilion at the site.

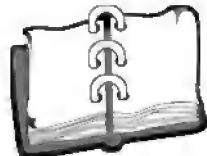
On our third day with Melody, we went to an arid area north and west of Tucson. We saw numerous birds that day including Brewers, Vesper, Savanna, Lincoln and White-crowned Sparrows, Eastern and Western Meadowlark, Killdeer, Greater Yellow Legs, Wilson's Snipe, Crested Caracara, Vermillion Flycatcher, Sage, Bendire's and Curve-billed Thrashers. We also saw Horned Lark, Mountain Plovers, Inca Dove, Ruddy Ground Dove and Burrowing Owls.

Because of an unexpected flight delay, we were able to spend a final morning at the Sweetwater Wetlands Park in Tucson. They recycle industrial wastewater at this plant and use some of it to water this wetland park. It was a beautiful, cool, sunny, morning. Some of the many species we saw included Black-crowned Night Heron, Sora, Virginia Rail and numerous ducks. They have several observation platforms in the park that make it really easy to observe the birds.



Elegant Tropic. Image Credit: Michael Saylor

Overall, we had 121 species for our trip. We look forward to going back. Melody told us that May and June are very good for observing colorful migratory birds in the mountains."



MOS Calendar

September-October 2018

SANCTUARY CLOSURE. Talbot. Mill Creek Sanctuary in Talbot County will be closed for deer management from September 7, 2018 to January 31, 2019. A "Sanctuary Closed" sign will be posted on the gate to the parking area for added safety.

Saturday, September 1

Baltimore. Soldiers Delight. We'll look for summer residents and early migrants in Soldiers Delight's varied habitats. Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Scarlet Tanager and 3 different vireos expected. Who knows what else might show up? Bring water and bug spray. 8 AM. Meet at the overlook on Deer Park Rd. Leader Peter Lev, 410-952-9426 or plev@comcast.net.

Patuxent/PGAS. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com, for more information.

ANNUAL BIRDSEED SALE. Talbot. The sale opens, with portion of proceeds going to Pickering Creek Audubon Center. Orders due by October 1; local pick up at Pickering Creek in mid-October. Contact Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002, wbell2@washcoll.edu, for price list and details.

Sunday, September 2

Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. We will hike on paved paths as well as grassy and dirt paths through varied habitat. The park has four ponds, woods, and wildflower fields and we will be looking for early migrants as well as resident birds. 7:30 – 10:30 AM. Meet at top parking lot past the sports fields. Contact Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

Howard. Dick Smith Memorial Butterfly Walk. Enjoy searching for late-summer butterflies with instruction on their identification. Easy walking on mowed paths around the community garden plots and Elkhorn meadow. We will continue on paved paths and mowed areas near

the right-of-way alongside open, flowery wet meadows and brushy hillsides. Bring close-focus binoculars to view nectaring behavior. Canceled if raining or overcast. No facilities. 9:30 AM (2-3 hrs). Meet at Elkhorn Garden Plots, Oakland Mills Rd opposite Dasher Court. Leader Linda Hunt, raven10322@hotmail.com.

Talbot. Fairbanks and Black Walnut Point Rd areas on Tilghman Island in search of late nesting species, plus early arriving southbound transient warblers, swallows, flycatchers, and vireos. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at N end of the Black Walnut Point parking lot. Leaders Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009, Jeff Effinger, (410-443-5016), and/or Jan Reese (410-745-2875).

Monday, September 3 (Labor Day)

Harford. Ma and Pa Trail. Explore the southernmost segment of this popular walking trail, walking from Annie's Playground towards Tollgate Road and back. Diverse habitat along the way promises a variety of birds. 7 AM (half day). Meet at Annie's Playground on Smith Ln off Connolly Rd in Fallston. Leader Susan Hood, susanjhood@comcast.net or 410-937-7552.

MEETING. Carroll. Program "Appreciating and Expanding the Federal Duck Stamp" by Paul Baicich. 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Center in Westminster. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.

Tuesday, September 4

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader John Landers, 410-292-9549 or dado1bw@aol.com.

MEETING. Baltimore. Tuesday Evening at Cylburn. Josie Kalbfleisch (Baltimore), Daniel Irons and Jonathan Irons (Queen Anne's Co.) from YMOS. YMOS birders will share information about youth birding opportunities in Maryland, their experiences, research, and participation in the World Series of Birding. All are members of the 2018 World Series of Birding teams. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, lecture starts about 7:20 PM. Held at the Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom.

Wednesday, September 5

Anne Arundel. Mill Creek. A great opportunity to hike trails at the MOS Sanctuary

in Talbot County. Be prepared for diverse terrain so sturdy hiking boots are recommended. Bring water and bug spray. Trip is limited to fifteen participants so contact leader if you plan to attend. 7 AM (half day). Meet at Bay 50. Contact Dominic Nucifora, 443-534-4891 or d.nucifora@yahoo.com.

Baltimore. First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry. One of a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in inclement weather. 8 AM (half day). Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

Baltimore. Wednesday Evening Walk at Fort McHenry. Part of a series of evening bird walks at the Fort and wetland. Telescope may be useful. Canceled in bad weather. 6 – 8 PM. Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader Joe Supik, 443-417-5015.

Thursday, September 6

MEETING. Frederick. Joe Hanfman will tell us about the wonders of Alaska birding. 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd, Frederick. Contact Don Hambright, fbcprep@aol.com.

Howard. Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Moderate walking through wooded trails and along the river. Great area for migrants of all species. Field edges and thickets provide sparrow habitat. If time and birds warrant, we will also do the Trotter Rd Loop. Prepare for wet grass and mud on the trails. No facilities. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Clegg Meadow off Southwind Cir, Columbia. Leader Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net or 410-461-1643.

Montgomery. Wheaton Regional Park. Join us to look for migrant warblers, vireos and flycatchers. Reservations required. Limit 10. For more information about meeting time and place and for reservations email leaders Woody & Rae Dubois, dengue1@verizon.net.

Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Friday, September 7

Anne Arundel. Poplar Island. Join us as we take this great opportunity to tour this magnificent island in the Chesapeake Bay. We will board in Tilghman Island at 9 AM, returning to dock at 1 PM. The island is a magnet for migrating shore birds and home to many species. We will stop for a late lunch at Chesapeake Landing. Trip is limited to 12 participants. 7 AM (all day). Meet at Bay 50. Contact Alan Young, 410-991-9300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

Saturday-Sunday, September 8-9

Allegany/Garrett. Field Trip to Dolly Sods Bird Banding Station and the Canaan Valley NWR Boardwalk, WV. Overnight field trip led by Carol and Joe McDaniel. Deadline to sign up is Sept 1. Contact Joe and Carol at mcdanieljandc@gmail.com.

Saturday, September 8

Harford. Garrett Island Paddle Outing. Bring your kayak, canoe, stand-up, etc. to the Jean Roberts Park in Havre de Grace where we will launch and depart for Garrett Island just off shore in the middle of the Susquehanna River. We will circle the Island looking at Osprey, Bald Eagles, Great Blue Heron and other creatures. If we are granted a permit, some walking on the island would require sturdy shoes. No rentals available. 8:30 AM (half day). Meet at Jean Roberts Park in Havre de Grace. Leaders Colleen Webster, cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577, and Sue Procell procellmd@gmail.com or 443-417-4919.

Montgomery. Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area. Joint trip with Audubon Naturalist Society. Three-hour pontoon boat trip on the Patuxent followed by trail walk. Search for Sora, also migrant and resident songbirds and waterbirds. Boat trip can be cool and a bit damp. Bring fee of \$5 per person (MD residents) or \$7 (VA, DC residents) for park program. Registration required (20 person limit). Register online at ANShome.org/adults. Meet at park entrance gate. 7:30 AM (half day). Leaders Greg Kearns and John Bjerke. For more info, contact John at johnbjerke1@mac.com.

MOS BOARD MEETING. Talbot. Talbot Bird Club will be primary hosts, with Caroline County Bird Club as co-hosts. The meeting will be held at the Presbyterian Church, 617 N Washington St, Easton, be-

ginning at approximately 10 AM. Prior to the meeting, Wayne Bell will lead an early morning walk (8 – 10 AM) at Pickering Creek.

YMOS. Assateague Island Bird Competition. This is the 2nd Annual Assateague Island Birding Competition; teams will try to find as many species as possible during competition hours. Targets: coastal birds, shorebirds, migratory species. Lodging available Fri night at the Radcliffes. Camping usually available at Assateague. Compilation dinner after competition. Submit teams by Aug 1. Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com.

Sunday, September 9

Baltimore. Cylburn Walk. Easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome. Handicap accessible. 8:15 AM. Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot. Leader Peter Lev, 410-952-9426 or plev@comcast.net.

Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM (half day). Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

Howard. Rockburn Branch Park. Moderate walking through the woods and fields of our largest county park looking for migrants. Paths may be muddy. Facilities available. 8 AM (half day). Meet in parking lot on the left just past the restored schoolhouse. The park gate is just beyond Rockburn Elementary School. Leaders Karen and Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731 or KJHeff122@gmail.com.

Montgomery. Rock Creek Park DC for Beginners. The focus will be on identifying migrant warblers, vireos and sparrows but we'll also look closely at more common birds. 6:30 AM (1/3 day). Meet at Picnic Area 18 on Ridge Rd, ½ mile below the nature center. For reservations (required) and directions call leader Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

Talbot. Bombay Hook NWR. Always a great trip in search of migrating passerines, raptors, waders, shorebirds and possible early arriving waterfowl. Bring lunch,

drinks and insect repellent. 6:30 AM (full day). Meet at Easton Acme parking lot. Leader Charles Hopkins, 443-786-6332.

Tuesday, September 11

MEETING. Allegany/Garrett. Samantha Dixon, Ranger, Deep Creek SP, will speak on "Hawk Identification", a different look at hawks than what you see in the guide books. 7 PM. Compton Hall, Room TBA, Frostburg State University.

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader Joe Corcoran, 443-831-1811 or corcoran2921@gmail.com.

BOARD MEETING. Baltimore. While only authorized Board members have a vote, any Club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. Call any club officer or board member for details. 7 PM. Held at the Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom.

MEETING. Kent. Program and Speaker TBD. 7:30 PM, Wesley Hall at Heron Point, off East Campus Ave, Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

MEETING. Patuxent/PGAS. "The Legacy of Bud Taylor", presented by Dr. Matthew Perry.

Our region lost an esteemed wildlife artist when John W. Taylor died last October at age 86. Known to all as "Bud," he was a beloved and treasured member of MOS and the Anne Arundel Bird Club. Come learn more about this multi-faceted man and his impact on conservation. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time. College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 2nd Floor, 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, September 12

Baltimore. Wednesday Evening Walk at Fort McHenry. Part of a series of evening bird walks at the Fort and wetland. Telescope may be useful. Canceled in bad weather. 6 – 8 PM. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Joe Supik, 443-417-5015.

Howard. Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm. Easy walking through the

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fields of Mt. Pleasant Farm. Tree lines, hedgerows and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at parking lot. Leader Warren Cummings, wcummings9@gmail.com or 410-925-1809.

Thursday, September 13

MEETING. Howard. "In Light of Recent Trends in Development, What Does the Future Hold for our Birds? Safe Skies Maryland, Working Toward a Model of Real Sustainability." Beth Decker and Carolyn Parsa co-founded Safe Skies to impact the loss of an estimated one billion healthy birds to collisions each year in North America. Join us to learn what members of the MOS community are doing to address this growing problem. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Ctr, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: Mary Lou Clark, 410-465-4061.

Saturday, September 15

Baltimore. Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Canceled in bad weather. 8 AM (half day). Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 or drbeanes@verizon.net.

Baltimore. Hawk Watch Weekend at Cromwell Valley Park Willow Grove Hawk Watch Site. All ages. Join Park volunteers and participate in Citizen Science to help us count the Broad-winged Hawks as they migrate through the Valley. Several species of hawks expected. Bring a chair, water, snacks, and sunblock. Set your own hours. 9 AM – mid-afternoon. Walk up paved road to crest of hill.

FALL COUNT. Caroline. Contact Debby Bennett, dabennett1996@gmail.com.

FALL COUNT. Carroll. Parties of counters will set their own schedules in their pre-arranged areas to count resident and late migrant bird species throughout the County. Contact Don Jewell to verify your bird counting area (jewelldg@gmail.com or 410-259-4716). Tally Rally will be hosted by Maureen and Dave Harvey at their home. If you will be attending the rally, please RSVP to the Harveys at 410-795-3117 no later than Wednesday, September 12. Plan on bringing a food item or a \$5

cash donation.

FALL COUNT. Dorchester. Compiler Harry Armistead, 215-248-4120 or haryarmistead@hotmail.com.

Frederick. Audubon Society of Central MD monarch tagging at Audrey Carroll Sanctuary, 13030 Old Annapolis Road, Mt. Airy. 9-11 AM. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071.

Harford. Ladew Gardens Birds and Blooms Walk. Explore the beautiful grounds in search of the resident bird-life as well as the other inhabitants of the gardens. 8 AM (promptly as gates will close behind us; half day). Ladew parking lot. Advanced reservations required. For more information, contact harfordbirdclubedu@gmail.com.

FALL COUNT. Howard. Please go to the following link to sign up. <http://howard-birds.org/howard/counts.htm>. Compilers Mike McClure/Chuck Stirrat, 410-531-2780 or Michael.McClure@jhuapl.edu.

Montgomery. Snickers Gap Hawkwatch (between Bluemont and Berryville, VA). Two-thirds day. Joint trip with Audubon Naturalist Society. Peak time for Broad-winged Hawks. Bring tripods, scopes, chairs, and pack lunch. Registrations required (no limit). Register online at ANShome.org/adults. 10 AM (2/3 day). Meet at commuter parking lot at VA 7 and VA 601. Contact leaders Joan Boudreau and Bob Abrams at icepeep@aol.com or 703-282-9495 (cell).

Patuxent/PGAS. Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile east of Rt 301. No reservations needed. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

ANNUAL PICNIC. Tri-county. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. Drinks are provided. 4 PM. Held at the home of Paul Bystrak and Marylee Ross, 5968 Rockawalkin Road, Salisbury. Rain or shine. For questions or directions, contact Paul Bystrak at 443-783-1268 or shrike@comcast.net.

FALL COUNT. Washington. Contact Doris Berger, 301-739-8907, to participate.

FALL COUNT. YMOS. Taylor's Island in

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Dorchester County. This is one of the Fall Bird Counts held around the State. There will be overnight lodging provided near the location for participating birders. The trip is open to anyone, and you can come for all of it or part time. Contact George Radcliffe, 410-228-7670.

Sunday, September 16

Baltimore. Hawk Watch Weekend at Cromwell Valley Park Willow Grove Hawk Watch Site. All ages. Join Park volunteers and participate in Citizen Science to help us count the Broad-winged Hawks as they migrate through the Valley. Several species of hawks expected. Bring a chair, water, snacks, and sunblock. Set your own hours. 9 AM – mid-afternoon. Walk up paved road to crest of hill.

Baltimore. Chimney Swifts at Dusk. The swifts have been returning regularly to the Bookbindery Chimney in Hampden, so that is where we will hold the watch again this fall, 2018! We will observe the chimney the week before, and should it not be productive, we will post a change of venue on the BBC website, so be sure to double check. If cloudy or a drizzle, come a half hour early. Canceled if raining. Binoculars useful but not necessary. 7 PM. Website: www.baltimorebirdclub.org. Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/382565775136349/members/. Leaders Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net, and Alice Nelson, 410-499-0546 or alice.display@verizon.net.

FALL COUNT. Calvert. Contact Sue Hamilton, 410-586-1494 or ldsquaw0@gmail.com.

FALL COUNT. Kent. Help us count birds in as much of Kent County as possible in a single day; join a field party or cover your neighborhood anywhere in the county. If you have questions, contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

FALL COUNT. Patuxent/PGAS. Annual county-wide census of resident and migrating birds. This census is part of a state-wide effort to count fall birds. Pick your own start and stop times. Contact the county compiler David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, to receive an assigned area and for more information.

FALL COUNT. Somerset. Contact Paul Bystrak, 410-572-9950 or shrike@comcast.

net.

FALL COUNT. Talbot. Contact county coordinator, Dave Palmer dpalmermd59@gmail.com if you can contribute to the count in areas other than the scheduled Sunday morning walk at Black Walnut Point.

Talbot. Black Walnut Point Road areas on Tilghman Island. Visit one of Talbot County's most productive birding locations in prime migration season. Expect migrating warblers, other songbirds and shorebirds. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM OR meet at north end of the Black Walnut Point Rd parking lot at 7:30 AM. Leaders Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009, Jeff Effinger, 410-443-5016, and/or Jan Reese (410-745-2875).

Monday, September 17

MEETING. Talbot. Speaker TBA. 7 PM. Bayleigh Chase Auditorium (aka William Hill Manor Auditorium), 501 Dutchman's Ln, Easton.

Tuesday, September 18

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

Wednesday, September 19

Anne Arundel. Pontoon Trip with Greg Kearns, Patuxent River Park. We will meet at the dock for a three hour tour of Jug Bay looking for Sora and other rails. Greg will be checking his traps so it's possible to have some close looks at these magnificent birds. Cost is \$7 per person and reservations are necessary as there is limited participation. 7:30 – 10:30 AM. Meet at the Jackson Landing dock at Patuxent River Park. Contact Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

MEETING. Anne Arundel. AABC welcomes all wild bird lovers to attend our Annual Open House Meeting! We will introduce the Fall/Winter slate of field trips, and the roster of speakers presenting at our monthly meetings. Colin Rees presents a brief program, "Feathers", part of his series on bird natural history. Wildlife Rehabilitator Kathy Woods, founder of the Phoenix Wildlife Center, will describe her work and the center's service to injured animals over its 25+ year mission. Raffle drawing

for a signed Robert Bateman framed print, "Pair of Black-crowned Night Herons". (Tickets are \$10 each or 3/\$25. Call Judy Brennan, 410-280-2487, to purchase tickets in advance). Refreshments served. 7 – 9 PM. Harvest Hall, Kinder Farm Park. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

Harford. Eden Mill Nature Center. Two mile walk along Falling Branch Trail. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at Eden Mill Nature Center parking lot off of Eden Mill Rd. Contact leader Dennis Kirkwood, newark-farms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905.

MEETING. Montgomery. Patrick Newcombe and the MOS Youth Group. YMOS students have developed a presentation on their trips, research, and participation in the World Series of Birding. MBC Editor Patrick Newcombe will present. Doors open at 7 PM, refreshments 7:30 and meeting starts at 8 PM. Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd.

Thursday, September 20

MEETING. Caroline. Austin K. Lester, presenter. "American Kestrel Nest Box program in New Castle County." 7:30 PM. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, September 22

Anne Arundel. Swan Creek Wetlands. A great opportunity to explore the entire Cox Creek containment pond of this magnificent dredge site. Over 100 acres include open water, low marsh with non-vegetated tidal flats, saltbush assemblages, woodlands, and a beach/sand bar area. A viewing platform overlooks part of the wetland. We will be looking for migrating shore birds as well as many year-around residents. Trail is covered with rocks so sturdy waterproof footwear is recommended and scopes are helpful. 7 AM (half day). Meet at Swan Creek Wetlands. Contact Stan Arnold, 410-428-7567 or thrushhost@gmail.com.

Baltimore. Oregon Ridge and Agricul-

tural Center. Oregon Ridge is a good spot in September for warblers, thrushes, and other passerines. The Center for Maryland Agriculture, just across Shawan Road, has a variety of open habitats; we'll look here for sparrows, meadowlark, killdeer, etc. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Oregon Ridge Nature Ctr, 13555 Beaver Dam Rd. Leader Simon Best, simonrabest@gmail.com.

Baltimore. Druid Hill Park. Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. 8 – 9:30 AM. Meet at 3001 East Drive to start the walk. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com.

Frederick. Gambrill SP and Frederick Watershed. Search for migrating fall warblers. Easy walking on mostly paved paths. Contact leader Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690, for meeting time and location.

Howard. Jug Bay Boat Trip. Look for migrants, Sora, Virginia Rail, Least Bittern, and shorebirds during this boat trip along Jug Bay at low tide. There is a \$6 fee (cash only) for this trip. 7 AM. Meet at Patuxent River Park, 16000 Croom Airport Rd, Upper Marlboro. For reservations contact Mary Maxey, maximom11998@gmail.com.

Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia. Sponsored by Prince George's Audubon Society, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, MOM's Organic Market. 5th annual migration-themed birding festival with live raptors and 11 AM raptor talk; 7:30 AM bird walk for all skill levels; 10 AM family bilingual scavenger hunt introducing iNaturalist app; children's games, crafts, coloring mural, bilingual Spanish/English activity pages, make recycled binoculars; spotting scope set up; Monarch butterfly migration life cycle display, Wood Thrush display. For more information, contact Lisa Bierer-Garrett, froglipp@gmail.com.

Sunday, September 23

Allegany/Garrett. Cumberland Narrows. Looking for various hawks and vultures along the Great Allegany Passage through the narrows. Moderate level walking up to 2 miles. If time permits, we will head to the C&O Canal Terminus. 9 AM. Meet at the parking lot in the Narrows behind the closed Sunoco gas station on National

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Hwy. Leaders Raquel Ketterman and Bill Neil. Contact Raquel at Raquelketterman@verizon.net or 301-268-6746.

Caroline. Bird Banding observation in Chestertown. Jim Gruber, Bander. Great for kids. Adults welcome too. 8 AM. To register and for directions, contact Danny Poet, 410-827-8651 or birder231@hotmail.com.

Harford. Cromwell Valley Park. Take a walk through the rich habitat of one of Baltimore County's premier birding spots for migrant songbirds, waterfowl and raptors. This trip frequently yields a variety of sightings from Golden-crowned Kinglets, to kestrels and merlin along with waterfowl species. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at the P&R at Rt 152 just north of Rt 147 near Fallston. Leaders are Phil Powers, birdsinmd308@gmail.com or 410-679-4116, and Dave Larkin, larkin3001@comcast.net or 410-569-8319.

Montgomery. Pennyfield to Violette's Bird Stalk. This walk should net an interesting mix of late warblers, other land bird migrants, and probably a few early winter visitors, as we scan the skies and river for raptors and waterbirds. 9 AM (half day). Meet at the Violette's Lock parking lot, end of Violette's Lock Rd. We will then carpool to Pennyfield Lock and walk back up the C&O Canal towpath to Violette's Lock. Limit 12. To sign up, contact leader Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net or 240-515-4517.

Talbot. Adkins Arboretum and Tuckahoe SP. Adkins is one of the premier fall migration spots on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Expect to see lots of late migrating warblers, and early arriving sparrows and migrating raptors. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM or meet at Tuckahoe Lake parking lot (west end) at 7 AM. Half day. Leader Dave Palmer, 410-829-3376 or dpalmermd59@gmail.com.

Monday, September 24

MEETING. Tri-county. "Dark Sky Park Initiative" presented by Cineva Smith, Manager of Pocomoke River SP. 7 PM. MAC Education Center, off Snow Hill Rd, Salisbury. Contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net for more info.

Tuesday, September 25

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader Ron Davis, 410-821-1297 or 2athigh1@verizon.net.

MEETING. Washington. Program TBA. 7 PM. Mt. Aetna Nature Center, 21905 Mt. Aetna Rd, Hagerstown. Call 301-797-8454 for additional information.

Wednesday, September 26

Anne Arundel. Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center. Masonville is 54 acres of wetlands, trails and protected bird sanctuary along the Patapsco River. You never know what rarity may show up, especially during migration. 7:30 – 10 AM (rain date October 20). Meet at Millersville P&R on Veterans Hwy behind Exxon Station. Contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 or drbeanes@verizon.net.

Saturday, September 29

Allegany/Garrett. Birding at Sang Run, Friend's Delight. Caroline Blizzard will lead this walk through the beautiful Friend's Delight property. 8 AM. Meet at the parking lot on the left after Friend's Store. Contact Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

Anne Arundel. Bombay Hook NWR. We will do the 12-mile wildlife drive, stopping for good looks at migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. Habitats include tidal salt marsh, freshwater impoundments, upland fields and forests. Bring lunch, water, bug spray. Scopes helpful. 7 AM (all day). Meet at Bay 50. Contact Dale Murphy, 410-798-6345 or murphy_dale@msn.com.

Baltimore. Patterson Park. Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in SE Baltimore. With more than 205 species on record, the park is full of surprises. Handicap accessible. 8 – 9:30 AM. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of E Lombard St and S Patterson Park Ave. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Ctr at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org.

Carroll. Birds and Booze – What better combination could there be? Join us for birding on the trails of the The Galloping Goose Vineyard, 4326 Maple Grove Rd, Hampstead (www.gallopinggoosevineyard.com)

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vineyards.com/contact1.shtml). 8 AM, followed by wine tasting at around 11:30 AM. There is an \$8 charge for the tasting. Contact Don Jewell, 410-259-4716, if you have any questions.

Frederick. Oaks Landfill. This restricted access area is a large inactive landfill adjacent to Blue Mash, with open fields and some surprisingly productive ponds. Mark England will lead a search for rarities and early migrants. Mostly driving with frequent stops. Contact Deb Calhoun, 410-215-3268, for meeting time and location.

Harford. Rocks SP. Spend the morning on the trails of this Deer Creek woodland to enjoy the late fall avian spectacle. Some hiking on hilly trails is involved. After the main walk we will visit one or more of the picnic areas (\$3 fee, \$5 out of state). 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at the Ranger Station parking lot on Rocks Chrome Hill Rd. Leader Mark Magnani, mwmagnani@gmail.com or 410-838-1778.

Howard. Blandair Park North. Walk the trails along scrubland and woods looking for migrants. No facilities, boots recommended. 7:30 AM (2-3 hrs). Meet at the south end of Summer Hollow Ln, Columbia. Leader Anthony VanSchoor, tonyvanschoor@gmail.com.

Washington. Fort Frederick SP and surrounding area. 7 AM (half day). Meet at the MVA lot, 18306 Col. Henry K. Douglas Dr. Contact Bruce or Linda Field, 301-797-6189, to register.

Sunday, September 30

Kent. Beginner's bird walk, Eastern Neck NWR. We'll spend the morning exploring several of the refuge's trails and overlooks, looking for a variety of migrants, including raptors, warblers and sparrows. 8 AM. Meet at the Tundra Swan boardwalk at the N end of the island. If you have questions, contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

Patuxent/PGAS. South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge. One of a series of walks to explore the seasonal variations in bird use of the habitats at South Tract. Be prepared to walk up to 2 miles. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Target species include migrating warblers, flycatchers, vireos, sparrows. 8 AM. Meet in the parking lot of the National Wildlife

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Visitor Center off Powder Mill Rd; bear left on entering the parking area and go all the way to the last section of the lot past the covered solar recharging station for electric vehicles. For directions, see https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit_directions.html. For further information, contact leader Ken Cohen, at kvulture@aol.com.

Talbot. Spocott Farms and Windmill. Enjoy exploring the Neck District of Dorchester Co in search of early arriving waterfowl and sparrows as well as late transient warblers. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM (half day). Leaders George Radcliffe, 410-228-7670, and Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002.

Tuesday, October 2

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM (half day). Leader Peter Lev, 410-952-9426 or plev@comcast.net.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Tuesday Evening at Cylburn. "The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership: A united voice for Maryland's birds", presented by Chris Eberly. The MBCP was launched in 2014 to build a collaborative, sustained effort to conserve Maryland birds and their habitats. The presentation will detail how the Partnership is working and how you can become involved in conserving Maryland's birds. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, presentation starts about 7:15 PM. Held at the Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom.

Wednesday, October 3

Anne Arundel. Cromwell Valley Park. Cromwell Valley is one of the best places to see migrating warblers in the fall. Join us for a leisurely hike along fields and streams in this beautiful setting. 8 – 11 AM. Meet at the Park. Contact Kevin Graff, 410-967-5896 (text only) or keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

Baltimore. First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in bad weather. 8 AM (half day). Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Mom's Big Year" by Nancy McAllister. 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Center, Westminster. Contact Don Jewell, jewelldg@gmail.com.

Harford. Havre de Grace Promenade Bird Walk. This event is jointly sponsored by the Environmental Center at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum and the Harford Bird Club. Beginners and young birders welcome. A limited number of loaner binoculars will be available. Enjoy a stroll along the boardwalk with vistas of the mouth of the Susquehanna River and the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. 5:30 PM. Meet at the Museum, where you will be welcomed by Sarah Shpak, Environmental Center staff member, enviro-centerathdgmm@gmail.com, and Colleen Webster, HBC member, cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577.

Thursday, October 4

MEETING. **Frederick.** Mike Welch returns to the club to tell us about his recent adventures in Tanzania. 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd, Frederick. Contact Don Hambright, fbcprep@aol.com.

Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, October 6

Allegany/Garrett. Hawk Identification at the Discovery Center. Ranger Sam Dixon will help us refine our hawk identification skills by outlining hints and clues that lead us to correctly identify high flying raptors. 10 AM (two hours). Meet at the Deep Creek Lake Discovery Center. Contact Melissa Hensel, mhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

Baltimore. Irvine Nature Center. A great spot for sparrows, raptors and other birds of this transitional season. 9 AM (half day). Leader John Landers, 410-292-9549 or dado1bw@aol.com.

Carroll. Hashawha. Late migrants and whatever else turns up. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Bear Branch Nature Center parking lot. For more information, contact Bob Ringle, 410-303-2792.

Harford. Swan Harbor Farm Park. This preserved area near the Upper Bay provides prime habitat for waterfowl, songbirds, and marsh and field birds. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at the parking lot at the end of the driveway. Leaders are Dave Webb, porzana@comcast.net or 410-939-3537, and John Rinker.

Howard. University of MD Central Maryland Research and Education Center. The tract has a history of uncommon County sightings. Waterproof footwear is advised. 7 - 9:30 AM preceding the Big Sit. As requested, we will be back across the Folly Quarter Rd. bridge by 9:30. Meet to the north of the farm office for a walk of the wetland and Middle Patuxent floodplain. Enter farm at gated 2nd entrance (just north of the main entrance) right before crossing the Folly Quarter Rd. bridge and then park on left.

BIG SIT. **Howard.** University of Maryland Open House Big Sit. All are welcome to bring a chair and sky watch or interact with the farm's visitors at the Club booth. Stop by and partake anytime that is convenient. 10 AM - 3:00 PM. Meet just outside the front lawn tent on the University Farm on Folly Quarter Rd. Leader Wes Earp, wesandsue@gmail.com or 410-531-3197.

BIG SIT. **Montgomery.** Montgomery's Big Sit at Black Hill! The object of a Big Sit is to tally as many bird species seen or heard within 24 hours from a single spot. Our club has picked a good place for a day of bird watching and over the years has tallied more than 50 species. Come for the day or just an hour or two. New birders and new members encouraged! We'll start at dawn - providing coffee and donuts to keep you going! - and continue until we run out of steam, usually mid-afternoon. Take the road to the Black Hill RP boat ramp. Park in the gravel lot on the right after you cross the small bridge and continue on the footpath to the cross dike. For more information contact Chuck Parker, chparker@k12.wv.us.

Patuxent/PGAS. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at E end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com, for more information.

YMOS. Cape May Hawk Migration and Sea Watch. Though a long day, this is a

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great trip for all levels of birders. We'll carpool from both the Eastern and Western Shores and spend the day in Cape May during the peak of raptor migration. We'll also search for songbird migrants and visit the Avalon Seawatch. Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com.

Sunday, October 7

Allegany/Garrett. Migrating Raptors. 11 AM (4 hours). Meet at Dan's Rock Overlook. Contact Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. We will hike on paved paths as well as grassy and dirt paths through varied habitat. The park has four ponds, woods, and wildflower fields and we will be looking for early migrants as well as resident birds. 7:30 – 10:30 AM. Meet at top parking lot past the sports field. Contact Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

Baltimore. Days Cove. We'll hike around the marsh edge as it comes alive with wildlife activity. Possible birds include Virginia Rail, raptors, Marsh Wren. This area is not normally open to the public. Canceled in inclement weather. Pre-registration is required. Contact Nancy O'Hara, noh529@gmail.com or 443-286-0922. Participation limited to 20 people and deadline to register is Oct 5. 8 AM (half day). Leader Kevin Graff.

Montgomery. Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens. Explore the diverse habitats, which include a complex of cultivated ponds with rare waterlilies and lotuses, marshes, wooded trails, the Anacostia River and fields. A variety of raptors and migratory warblers, vireos, thrushes and flycatchers should be present, and rails and bitterns are possibilities. Reservations required. Limit 25. 8 AM (half day). Meet in the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens parking lot. Leaders Mike Bowen, 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com, and Gerry Hawkins, 571-277-8406 or maineusa@comcast.net.

Montgomery. Little Bennett RP for Beginners. All are welcome on this trip but we especially encourage those new to birding to join us. We'll slowly walk some of the woodland trails looking for migrant and resident birds. 7:30 AM (half day). Reservations required. Limit 8. For reservations and directions contact leader Gemma Rad-

ko, 301-514-2894.

Talbot. Taylor's Island, Dorchester Co. Quest for late fall migrants, early wintering arrivals, both land birds and waterfowl. Expect Bald Eagles, some kinglets, flycatchers, vireos. Less common species: Swainson's Thrush, Cape May Warbler. We may have permission to visit private lands in our quest for unusual sightings. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM (half day). Leaders Dave Palmer, 410-829-3376, and Paul Spitzer.

Tri-county. Assateague National Seashore, for coastal migrant especially hawks, warblers and sparrows. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Meet at the Ward Museum parking lot at 7 AM or the National Seashore Visitor Center parking lot (before the bridge) at 7:45 AM. For more information, contact Mike Walsh at 410-422-0428 or at mik.walsh@comcast.net.

Monday, October 8 (Columbus Day)

Harford. Waggoner's Gap, PA. Join us as we visit a premier hawk-watching spot near Carlisle, PA. Possible sightings include Ravens, Golden Eagles, and Ospreys along with Sharp-shinned, Coopers and Red-tailed Hawks during their fall migration. Bring a blanket or soft cushion as we will be sitting on a rocky outcrop. Also bring drinks and a lunch. 8 AM (full day). Meet at the strip mall at Upper Cross Roads in Fallston (intersection of rts. 152 and 165). Leader Dr. Mark Johnson, marksjohnson2@gmail.com or 410-692-5978.

MEETING. **Talbot.** Speaker TBA. 7 PM. Bayleigh Chase Auditorium (aka William Hill Manor Auditorium), 501 Dutchman's Ln, Easton.

Tuesday, October 9

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** Dominic Nucifora, Sanctuary Chair, will speak on the history of the MOS Sanctuary Program, and challenges that MOS faces in managing these properties. 7 PM. Compton Hall, Room TBA, Frostburg State University.

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM (half day). Leader Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

BOARD MEETING. Baltimore. While only authorized Board members have a vote, any Club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. Call any club officer or board member for details. 7 PM. Held at the Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom.

MEETING. **Kent.** Program and Speaker TBD. 7:30 PM, Wesley Hall at Heron Point, off East Campus Ave, Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Patuxent/PGAS.** "Saving the Places You Love", presented by Ned Tillman.

Naturalist, outdoor guide and environmental author Ned Tillman will give a spirited presentation about how to protect and preserve the places that we and our feathered friends like to visit. Ned has used fiction and nonfiction, workshops, presentations, blogs, and interpretive walks to inspire people of all ages to fall in love with the outdoors and to become better stewards of these fragile lands. His hope is that each of us will become more effective champions of the wild spaces in our midst. His book, *Saving the Places We Love: Paths to Environmental Stewardship*, describes the major campaigns that have been waged to preserve the forests and parks all across the country. It was the 2014 Book of the Year as selected by Howard County's Poetry and Literary Society, Community College, and Library System. He will have copies of his books and will be happy to sign them for you at the meeting. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time. College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 2nd Fl, 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, October 10

Anne Arundel. Greenbury Point Trail. Join us as we hike the 2-mile loop along the Severn River and Chesapeake Bay. There are wooded coves, wetland ponds, forest, scrub brush and grassy meadows teeming with birds. 8 – 11 AM. Meet at Greenbury Point Nature Center parking lot. Contact Linda Vitchock, 443-557-8233 or lindabvit@hotmail.com.

Montgomery. Lois Green Park. Join us for the morning as we learn and review some

of the basics of bird ID. This is a great place to find our more common species as well as some of the harder sparrows. This trip is primarily for new birders /new members but all are welcome. 9 AM. Meet at the parking lot. For information, directions and reservations contact leader Stephanie Lovell, amorelllovell@gmail.com.

Thursday, October 11

MEETING. Howard. "Youth Birding in Maryland," by Joshua Heiser and Daniel and Jonathan Irons, YMOS birders. YMOS birders will share information about youth birding opportunities in Maryland, their experiences, research and participation the World Series of Birding. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Ctr, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: Mary Lou Clark, 410-465-4061.

Saturday, October 13

Allegany/Garrett. Field Trip to Town Hill. Meet Ray Kiddy to watch for migrating hawks at a time of year when there is still good hawk diversity but we may have a better chance for some interesting birds, like Golden Eagles (with favorable weather conditions) as well. Bring lunch and a drink. 10:30 AM. Meet at the overlook. Contact Ray Kiddy, 301-739-1972 or rrkiddy@atlanticbb.net. Additional dates running through Oct. and Nov. will be announced.

BIG SIT. Anne Arundel. Big Sit at Ft. Smallwood Park. We will start before dawn hoping for some owls and stay until the park closes at dusk! Come join us for the entire day or just part of it as we tally all the birds we can see from our spot by the water. Bring a chair and some food to share! 6 AM (all day). Meet at Ft. Smallwood Park. Contact Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

Baltimore. Jug Bay Wetlands. We expect marsh birds, land birds and waterfowl - for example Sora, Blue-headed Vireo, Green-winged Teal. Easy two-mile roundtrip. Entrance fee \$6 per car, so we will carpool. Meet at Nursery Rd/Hollins Ferry Rd P&R at 8 AM, or at Jug Bay Wetlands visitor parking lot at 9 AM (half day). Leaders Lou and Debbie Taylor, 410-852-9807 or debrataylor11@gmail.com.

Frederick. Lilypons/Greenfield Rd. Local morning search for migrants and early waterfowl. A great trip for beginners as

well as experienced birders. Trails can be uneven and overgrown. Contact leader David Smith, 410-549-7082, for meeting time and location.

Harford. Harford Glen. We will begin this tour with sightings from the parking lot, then proceed to survey the triple riparian habitats of Atkinson Reservoir, the faster flowing Winters Run, and the Plumtree Run tributary. The woodland trails and the open meadows offer great opportunities for good birding. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at the Glen, W end of Wheel Rd. Leader Dave Larkin, larkin3001@comcast.net or 410-569-8319.

BIG SIT. Kent. Eastern Neck NWR. Join us in our Big Sit circle (call for specific location) any time from first light (when birds are most active) to mid-afternoon, and stay as long as you would like. Sunday, October 14 is bad-weather backup date. If you have questions, contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

Sunday, October 14

Anne Arundel. Quiet Waters Park. Monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat, and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. \$6 per car Park entry fee. 8 – 11 AM. Meet at Blue Heron Center. Contact Pat and Juanita Tate, 410-615-5133 or jpt8@earthlink.net.

Baltimore. Cylburn Walk. Easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome. 8:15 AM (half day). Meet at the main Vollmer Ctr parking lot. Leader Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com.

Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM (half day). Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

BIG SIT. Caroline. Location TBA. Will run from early morning to early evening for some owling. Details will be listed on our Facebook page and Blog.

Howard. West Friendship Park. Moderate walking along field edges and through stream valleys. Small ponds may have some surprises. Expect wet areas. Rustic facilities. 7:45 AM. Meet at shopping center just W of Rt 32 and Rt 144. Will carpool to nearby park. Leader Jeff Culler, cullersfuls@hotmail.com or 410-465-9006.

Patuxent/PGAS. Patuxent River in Southern PG Co. This trip will visit a few less-birded areas along the Patuxent focusing on sparrows and other late migrant songbirds. The route will depend on what areas have good habitat this year. Bring a lunch/snacks since we will not finish up until early afternoon. 7:30 AM. Meet at the small parking area near the historic flying field (Columbia Air Center) memorial near the end of Croom Airport Rd. Please RSVP to leader David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net.

Talbot. Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe. Explore one of Talbot County's newest Open Space Recreational areas near Queen Anne. The Park borders the Tuckahoe River and Norwich Creek and trails are mowed for access to good bird habitats. This is the Home of the George C. and Naomi Moore Nature Preserve. Expect late neotropical migrants as well as sparrows and migrating raptors. Depart Acme parking lot at 7 AM (half day). Leader Dave Palmer, 410-829-3376 or dpalmermd59@gmail.com.

Washington. Indian Springs WMA. 7 AM (half day). Meet at the MVA lot, 18306 Col. Henry K. Douglas Dr. Contact Mark Abdy, mjabdy@yahoo.com or 301-432-7696, to participate.

Tuesday, October 16

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of weekly Tuesday morning walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM (half day). Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

Wednesday, October 17

MEETING. Montgomery. Jim Rapp on "I bird, I vote" and Jim Brighton on the Maryland Biodiversity Project (MBP). Just in time for the elections, Jim Rapp (co-founder of Conservation Community Consulting) will give us a brief introduction to the I bird, I vote movement. Then Jim Brighton, co-founder, with Bill

Hubick, of the MBP, will inform us on their progress on the fantastic goal of cataloging "all the living things of Maryland" (more than 17,000 species to this day!). Doors open at 7 PM, refreshments 7:30 and meeting starts at 8 PM. Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd.

Thursday, October 18

MEETING. Caroline. Marcia Watson, presenter. "Rediscovering the MOS Sanctuaries: From Mountains to Saltmarsh". 7:30 PM. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, October 20

Anne Arundel. Ft. McHenry and Masonville Cove. An opportunity to explore the restricted wetland at the fort and then to travel to nearby Masonville Cove to see what has come in there! 7:30– 11 AM. Meet at Millersville P&R, Veterans Hwy. Contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 or drbeanes@verizon.net.

Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Canceled in bad weather. 8 AM (half day). Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Ray Kandt, 336-906-0241.

Baltimore. Druid Hill Park. Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. 8 – 9:30 AM. Meet at 3001 East Drive to start the walk. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com.

Frederick. Bird Walk at Fred Archibald Audubon Sanctuary, 6011 Boyers Mill Rd, New Market. 9 - 11 AM. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071.

Howard. Lake Elkhorn. Easy walking along the lake and to Forebay Pond. Late migrants will be moving through. The lake can turn up interesting surprises. Hawks are also possible flying over. No facilities.

Handicap accessible. 8 AM (2-3 hrs). Meet at Dockside Parking lot. Leader Allen Lewis, allenrlewis@gmail.com.

Patuxent/PGAS. Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. No reservations needed. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, October 21

Talbot. Claiborne Landing and Wades Point Inn. Spend the early morning looking through a variety of habitats including broad reaches of Eastern Bay, fields, woods, and a freshwater pond that attracts puddle ducks as well as a nice mix of migrants. 7 AM. Meet at the Claiborne Boat Landing. Early morning leader Jeff Effinger, 410-443-5016.

After the morning walk at Wade's Point we will convene at Black Walnut Point parking lot Hawk Watch at 10 AM. We will view the hawk migration along the bay front at least until noon. Number of migrating hawks depends on weather and wind direction. Field guides and visual aids will be available for first time hawk watchers. Lawn chairs or folding chairs are highly encouraged. Bring drinks, lunch or snacks to relax and enjoy the show. 10 AM. Meet at the Black Walnut Point Rd parking lot near Fairbanks on Tilghman Island. Leaders Jeff Effinger, 410-443-5016, and Jan Reese, 410-745-2875.

Monday, October 22

MEETING. Tri-county. "The Mid-Atlantic Monarch Initiative" presented by Suzanne Pittenger-Slear, President & CEO, Environmental Concern Inc. 7 PM. MAC Education Center, off Snow Hill Rd, Salisbury. Contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net, for more info.

Tuesday, October 23

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Last in a series of weekly Tuesday morning walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM (half day). Leaders Debbie and Lou Taylor, debrataylor11@gmail.com.

POTLUCK DINNER/MEETING. Washington. Program "The Physics of Flight, Part 2" with Tom Reider. Enjoy a potluck dinner starting at 6 PM, followed by

meeting at 7 PM. Mt. Aetna Nature Ctr, 21905 Mt Aetna Road, Hagerstown. Bring your own place setting, drink, and a dish to share. Call 301-797-8454 for additional information.

Wednesday, October 24

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "A 2018 Birding Trip to Colombia." AABC past-president Pierre Henkart will narrate and share his photos of the expertly guided birding tour through Colombia that he and his wife Danalee took in February 2018. Originating in Medellin, the 9-day adventure covered several distinct habitats at elevations from 1,000 to 10,000 feet. 7 – 9 PM. Harvest Hall, Kinder Farm Park. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 27

Anne Arundel. Patuxent Research Refuge, North Tract. Over 8,000 acres of fields, forest, and ponds are home to more than 200 birds over the span of a year. We will travel by car to several of the hot spots throughout the park, as well as hike the river trail looking for late migrants and resident birds. 8 - 11 AM. Meet at North Tract. Contact Rod Burley, 301-943-5923 or rodburley@aol.com.

Baltimore. Patterson Park. Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in SE Baltimore. With more than 205 species on record, the park is full of surprises. Handicap accessible. 8 – 9:30 AM. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of E Lombard St & S Patterson Park Ave. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org.

Carroll. Town Hill Hawk Watch. We will look for Golden Eagles among other migrants. Bring a lunch and a cushion. 8 AM. Meet at the P&R on Rt 27 in Mt Airy. For more information, contact Bob Ringler, 410-303-2792.

Frederick. Saw-Whet Owl Banding. Late night trip. Reservations are required and the number of participants is limited on this special night-time trip to the Saw-Whet Owl banding station at Lamb's Knoll. Rain date October 28. Contact Tom Humphrey for information and reservations, 240-793-2508.

Harford. Bird Banding at Eden Mill

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Nature Ctr. Long time bird bander and accomplished birder and naturalist, Dr. Mark Johnson, and his able crew of volunteers will demonstrate banding and scientific data collection with actual in-hand birds. It is a great way to get close looks at birds that we usually see only at a distance or through dense leaves and branches. This is a fascinating wildlife experience for children and adults alike. 8 – 11 AM. Meet at the Vangrin Bird Banding Station at Eden Mill. Contact Dr. Johnson at marksjohnson2@gmail.com or 410-692-5978.

Montgomery. Blue Mash. Remembering Lou. Our annual morning walk in honor of former MBC president and all round naturalist Lou DeMouy who passed away in the fall of 2012. This year the trip will be geared to beginning birders and new members but all are welcome. 8 AM. Reservations required. For more information, directions and reservations contact leader Andy Martin, martinap2@verizon.net or 301-529-2066.

Sunday, October 28

Kent. Assateague Island, Worcester Co. Fall migrants tend to concentrate on the coast and many rarities have been found among the more common species on Assateague late in the season. We will spend the day exploring trails and beaches, with a probable detour to Ocean City before heading home. Bring lunch. 8 AM. Meet at Dollar General parking lot off Philosopher's Terrace, Chestertown. If you have questions, contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

Talbot. Chincoteague NWR, VA. Shorebirds, gulls and large flocks of waterfowl are the highlights of this trip to Chincoteague NWR, one of the premier birding locations on the Delmarva Peninsula. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM. All day trip with dinner (and ice cream) in the town of Chincoteague. Leader Terry Allen, 410-829-5840.

Thursday, November 1

MEETING. Frederick. Speaker TBA. 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd, Frederick. Contact Don Hambright, fbcprep@aol.com.

Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at inter-

section of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Washington. C&O Canal. 8 AM (half day). Meet at Taylors Landing. Call leader George Warrick, 301-799-9059, for details.

Saturday, November 3

ANNUAL BIRD CLUB BANQUET.

Allegany/Garrett. Katie Fallon, author of *Cerulean Blues and Vulture: Private Life of an Unloved Bird*, will speak on "Saving the Cerulean Warbler". Cost of the dinner is \$25. Make checks payable to AG Bird club and mail to Carol McDaniels, 437 Serenity Dr, Grantsville, MD 21536. Reservations must be made by Oct 28. 5 PM. The Penn Alps, Grantsville, MD.

Howard. Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm Sky Watch. This trip will be strictly a sky watch for late-migrating raptors and other potential goodies. Our main target will be Golden Eagle; while not expected, early November is the best time to catch one flying over Howard County. In a recent year a half-day sky watch less than a mile from this location produced an immature Golden Eagle and a Sandhill Crane, along with good numbers of Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks, plus Northern Harriers, accipiters, and some waterfowl. We will watch the skies and tally the birds as long as conditions are productive. Hope for a north wind! Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, light-colored sun glasses, comfortable lawn chair (recliners are best), binocular, scope, and camera if you like. Participants can also walk the Conservancy trails if sky-watching proves non-productive. Facilities available. Handicap accessible. 9:30 AM (half day). Meet at parking lot. Leader Russ Ruffing, ruff2@verizon.net.

Patuxent/PGAS. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at E end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com, for more information.

Tri-county. Irish Grove Sanctuary, for migrating and resident marsh species and to help with the annual workday. Meet at the Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 AM or Irish Grove in Somerset Co, at 8:15 AM. Lunch will be provided; our club will

be bringing desserts, so contributions to that will be appreciated. We need to have a head count one week before the trip, so please let Ellen know if you plan to attend. For information, contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

YMOS. Chincoteague NWR. This is a great opportunity to get a good look at a lot of bird species. Waterfowl will be back, and Chincoteague provides a unique opportunity to explore many types of habitats. Lodging will be provided Fri and/or Sat nights for students coming from a distance. Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com.

Sunday, November 4 (Daylight Saving Time ends)

Baltimore. Ashland NCR Trail and Paper Mill Flats. Trip to two locations for marsh birds, wintering waterfowl and late fall songbirds. Bring spotting telescope if you have one. 8:30 AM (half day). Meet at NCR Trail parking lot north side of Ashland/ Paper Mill Rd. Leader Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net.

Harford. Bombay Hook. This beautiful reserve in Delaware with its diverse coastal wetland habitats offers great promise for a variety of shorebirds, waterfowl, wading species, and raptors and songbirds. 7:30 AM (full day). Meet at the commuter parking lot near Havre de Grace on Rts. 155/I-95. Leader Dave Larkin, larkin3001@comcast.net or 410-569-8319.

Howard. Centennial Park. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available. Handicap accessible. 8 AM (2-3 hrs). West end parking lot. Leaders Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrrpeters.org.

Montgomery. Oaks Landfill. Explore this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Mostly open terrain on a gravel road, including two pond views and one hill climb of moderate difficulty. Possible sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. Leader will have scope for distant birds. We have special permission to enter this "closed to the public" landfill so reservations are essential. Limit 16. 8 AM. Contact leader Mark England, 240-207-3132

(home) or 240-375-4500 (cell) for reservations and more information.

Talbot. Chesapeake Bay Environmental Ctr and Terrapin Park. Two of southern QA County's top birding areas should provide numerous warblers, thrushes, orioles and early raptors. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM or meet leader at the Terrapin Park parking lot at 7:30 AM. Leader Danny Poet, 401-827-8651.

For more details about any event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit <https://mdbirds.org>. For YMOS, please contact George Radcliffe at radclifg@gmail.com.

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Maryland Ornithological Society Membership Registration Form

The benefits received from Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) membership dues are not considered to be substantial, as determined by criteria in IRS Publication 526. Therefore, members can claim a tax deductible charitable contribution for the full amount of their membership dues.

The MOS membership year begins September 1

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Dues category (Check One)

Individual \$20 **Household \$25** **Junior \$5** **Sustaining \$50** **Life \$1,000**

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please indicate if you would like to receive the MOS bi-monthly publication *The Maryland Yellowthroat* via mail or view from the MOS website.

I would like to receive *The Maryland Yellowthroat* via mail: YES / NO

Please make your check payable to the **Maryland Ornithological Society**, or MOS, and mail it with this completed form to the address below. Thank you for joining MOS! Check the calendar for a birding event near you!

MOS Treasurer
Maryland Ornithological Society
PO Box 105, Monrovia, MD 21770-0105

MOS does not release membership lists to any other organization. MOS only uses it for communication with its members.



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

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Photo Credit: Joe Shabotoff

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Editor's Note

There's no need to adjust your eyes — yes — this issue is in color! I would like to thank the Executive Council for supporting an issue of *The Maryland Yellowthroat* in color. An issue in color means that we are able to feature the photographic artwork of our talented membership.

Anthony VanSchoor, professional photographer and Howard County Bird Club member, captured the image for *The Yellowthroat* covers this month. Follow him on Instagram @anthonyvanschoor1 and learn more about his photography and work with birds at www.mdbirder.net.

In this issue, professional photographer and Harford Bird Club member, Joe Subolefsky, shares his best tips for experiencing waterfowl; Safe Skies Maryland debuts a regular column in *The Yellowthroat*; Matthew Olear updates us on the status of peregrines in Maryland; and we welcome Kathy Brown as our new Copy Editor.

Kathy is a member, and former president, of the Frederick Bird Club, a well-traveled birder, and brings with her 30 years of professional experience from the corporate world. Welcome, Kathy!

Thank you to our contributors and to the MOS membership for another wonderful issue.

Orietta C. Estrada, Editor
The Maryland Yellowthroat
 Yellowthroat@mdbirds.org



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For more information, please contact the Editor:

yellowthroat@mdbirds.org

Any member is welcome to contribute articles, photos, or ideas that would be of interest to other birders. Do you have a perspective that you would like to share with the birding community? We would like to hear from you — even if you are apprehensive about submitting, please contact the Editor and we can guide you through the process:

yellowthroat@mdbirds.org.

President's Corner

In this second edition of the President's Corner, I want to discuss amending our bylaws and three open positions in MOS.

Amending Bylaws

To start with a platitude, when MOS was founded in 1945 the world was a very different place for birds and birders (probably they were still referred to as "birdwatchers" in those distant days). There was a great deal more unaltered habitat, the widespread use of DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides was yet to begin, the spread of invasive plant species was less advanced, there were far fewer cars on the roads, and global warming was far less advanced and there was no awareness that such a phenomenon was possible — sadly, there still is lack of awareness. These are just the most salient factors that occur to me.

Now, over 70 years later, the situation has changed dramatically for birds in Maryland and across the globe, mostly for the worse and due largely to human activities.

It is therefore unsurprising that the MOS mission statement, as given in the bylaws, makes no mention of conservation. Here is the "purpose" (the bylaws do not include a "mission statement"):

"The purpose of this organization is to further educational, scientific and charitable pursuits relating to bird life in Maryland."

Parts of the bylaws have been updated since MOS' founding, but it seems that the "purpose" has been left as originally written. Clearly those were more innocent times.

Our website, however, already has a comprehensive mission statement, using the text adopted in 1998. It begins: "The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) fosters interaction and exchange of information among people interested in wild birds to encourage the study and enjoyment of birds in the natural world. MOS does this by..." it then lists 10 means by which the mission can be realized. I will not list them here but encourage you to view them on our website at MDBirds.org. MOS is already active in conservation matters (thanks to Kurt Schwarz and others!). This needs to be recognized in our bylaws.

Many of you may find amending our bylaws a rather dry subject (it does not make my pulse race). But an organization's bylaws formalize and document what it is, what it does and how it does these things. *Robert's Rules of Order* state that bylaws are the most important document of an organization. Therefore it really is important that we revise our bylaws to align them with MOS' current goals.

I wish to propose that "the purpose" in the bylaws be renamed "the mission statement" and that it be revised to read as follows:

"The mission of this organization is to support and strengthen the conservation and protection of the wild birds of Maryland, and to promote the education about, and the appreciation and scientific study of these birds."

Our Vice President, John McKitterick, is planning further revisions to bring our bylaws up to date. His revisions are two-fold:

Include modern means of communication (email, teleconferencing, and social media).

Clarify the sections on memberships and dues.

Our bylaws can only be amended at a membership meeting, not a board meeting. Since our next membership meeting is on June 1, 2019, we will need to vote on updating our bylaws at our convention in Chestertown. Stay tuned.



Open Positions

It goes without saying (but I'll still say it) that a volunteer organization, such as MOS, depends on people volunteering their time and energy to keep it running. We now have three important positions that are, or soon will be, vacant, and need volunteers for the Breeding Bird Atlas.

Treasurer

After 8 years as our treasurer, Dave Webb needs to step down by September 2019 in order to apply more focus on his demanding job and to recharge his creative batteries. He has done a sterling job, in spite of short timelines, equipment issues and other challenges. This is a vital position; MOS cannot function without a treasurer. I urge anyone who might be interested to contact Dave for a briefing.

Scholarship Committee Chair

Anna Urciolo has run the scholarships program with charm and diligence. She now wants to hand over this position to a successor. Encouraging the young (and the not-so-young) in their bird-related pursuits by awarding scholarships provides support and inspiration to our future leaders. Anna will be happy to explain what is involved in this position to anyone who is interested.

Bylaws Committee Chair

Having already labeled this as a dry subject, I now beg your forbearance by asking someone to step forward and take up the position of chair of the Bylaws Committee. After years of service in this role, Tom Loomis has decided to give up this position. We appreciate his service. As noted above, John McKitterick is planning to push ahead with amendments of our bylaws. However we do still need a chair for this committee. I would appreciate any interested members contacting me or John about this position.

Breeding Bird Atlas

As mentioned in my previous President's Corner, we are planning for the next Breeding Bird Atlas, beginning in 2020 and ending in 2024. This will be a significant undertaking but, based on the last one, it will also be a lot of fun. A committee is being formed, but we need more members, including a chair. Please contact me if you are interested. No need for previous experience with atlasing!

The fall migration is now underway, so do get outside and see what is passing through.

Sincerely,

Robin G. Todd, President MOS



Conservation Committee Fall 2018

The end of the Maryland legislative session brought little respite to the Conservation Committee.

Early in the quarter, we joined with Southern Maryland Audubon in a letter to the Maryland Department of the Environment opposing a gas compressor station in Charles County, noting that federal standards for noise and air pollution are left to the state to enforce, and would be violated by the station. The noise, air pollution, and habitat fragmentation would have been detrimental to birds. Both American Bird Conservancy and the Maryland Conservation Council joined the letter.

We wrote Maryland's Senators about the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) reversal of its ban on neonicotinoid pesticide use on National Wildlife Refuges. At least one Senator's staffer had not heard of the reversal. MOS opposes the irresponsible use of neonicotinoids and helped pass a retail ban on their sale in Maryland in 2016.

We also wrote the Senators opposing anti-environmental riders in the annual Farm Bill. The riders would emasculate portions of the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act, and preempt localities from regulating pesticides. Senators Cardin and Van Hollen signed a joint letter to the Farm Bill Conference Committee opposing such riders. We joined a World Wildlife Fund letter to Congress supporting sod-saver measures in the current Farm Bill.

We came to the aid of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology and submitted a letter opposing an ill-sited wind project slated for the Wild Creek watershed near Bethlehem, PA.

We wrote the Governor of Delaware seeking a veto of a bill that would support Trap-Neuter-Release programs for feral cats in the state. The Governor had not acted on this bill, as of this writing.

On Facebook we posted an alert to write to Google asking them to cease feeding feral cats on their campus that were also preying on Burrowing Owls in a neighboring park in California. So far Google has been unresponsive.

The most important letter of the quarter was penned by Committee member Rich Dolesh. The Presidential Council on Environmental Quality has proposed "streamlining" the National Environmental Policy Act. This is a bedrock environmental law that gives us, the public, and MOS, the right to comment on environmental regulations changes, land use decisions on federal lands, etc. The proposals to "streamline" processes would curtail public participation. Rich drafted a magisterial letter, rebutting the need of each proposed changes. My hat is off to Rich, who has a great understanding of this law and its interpretation, far exceeding my grasp and pay grade. We also joined a massive joint letter on this issue.

We assisted the Montana Wilderness Association by writing the Forest Service seeking to preserve wilderness and roadless areas in the Helena/Lewis and Clark National Forest. These forests

have only one eBird hotspot, but this is likely because so much is inaccessible to most, preserving its wilderness character. The letter was informed by my visit to that one hotspot this past June.

We signed a joint letter fronted by Defenders of Wildlife to Congress seeking to strip anti-environmental riders from the National Defense Appropriations Act. We subsequently learned that virtually all of those riders were removed in Conference Committee.

Two issues took up a lot of Committee time and were not strictly conservation issues. We were informed by the Kent County Chapter that USFWS had not funded a Manager for Eastern Neck NWR, and it was threatened with closure. We mounted a publicity campaign, posting an alert from Friends of Blackwater to numerous birding Facebook pages, posted to mdbirding.com, wrote to Maryland's Senators, and also to an Assistant Secretary of Interior and a Regional Manager of USFWS. We were informed by the Assistant Secretary that the Refuge would remain open, but unstaffed. Several weeks later, it was announced a Manager would be funded.

**We need our members in all chapters
to reach out to their representatives
with a request for support for this
Bill.**

We learned in August that a woman in Essex was fined \$400 and instructed to shut down her bird feeding by the County of Baltimore. I attended the hearing, as did MOS member Jay Sheppard. The woman, Sumintra Mohan, was accused of attracting rats, which had also allegedly gnawed the wiring of one of the neighbor's vehicles.

This was probably occasioned by the neighbors placing peanut-butter baited live traps under the vehicles, and squirrels were the likely culprit. Ms. Mohan maintains a very clean feeding operation, with trays under the feeders, which are cleaned up every night and taken in. A County inspector found no evidence of rats.

Ms. Mohan had also engaged a pest control company, which likewise found no evidence of rats, and placed baits as a preventative measure. The neighbors produced a photo of a rat in a bucket, which Jay, a biologist, identified as a domestic rat, not a Norway rat. The judge felt there was evidence enough of animals being drawn to the Mohan yard, and did not allow the rat photo to be challenged. He suspended the fine, but instructed Ms. Mohan to desist feeding until some undetermined future time. This judgment sets a bad precedent, and we have sent a letter to the judge, pointing out the errors in judgment, and sent him a copy of MOS member Paul Baicich's (et al.) book *Feeding Wild Birds in America*. We will seek to get Baltimore County Code clarified so that nobody else need fear they will be fined for feeding birds when no rats are present.

Safe Skies Maryland has met with League of Conservation Voters to develop a strategy to gain support from the wider environmental community for the next version of the Maryland Bird Safe Buildings Act, now called "The Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2019". The name change of the Bill reflects an update to highlight that bird safe design also makes the building more energy efficient by reducing the heating and cooling costs associated with glass. The current Bill is being drafted with increased emphasis on sustainability in an attempt to widen the appeal and likeli-

hood that legislators will understand how this effort is relevant to emerging topics in sustainable design and development. We need our members in all chapters to reach out to their representatives with a request for support for this Bill. New fact sheets and materials are being designed, lobby days will be announced, and we need everyone to get involved if we are to have the opportunity to save healthy migrants from this type of loss.

In addition, Safe Skies has joined a task force of environmental partners working together to advance the Forest Conservation Act. Both the Maryland Bird Safe Buildings Act (focusing on the built environment) and The Forest Conservation Act (protecting functioning habitat) are critical to making Maryland a suitable and safe place for resident and migratory birds.

In the past year, partnerships with formal and non-formal educators have moved this topic of bird conservation into formal lesson plans in schools, camp experiences at nature centers, professional development for educators, and community events with positive results in environmental literacy and in conservation actions undertaken by students, campers, and those working with them. Regular updates are posted to Facebook that highlight these activities, updates about the many partners that have come together on

these projects are also posted.

The projects at Howard County Conservancy and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are both moving from the initial phases of retrofitting into additional phases of creating bird safe buildings with educational outreach to connect with the community. We were pleased to see so many faces join in on phase one at DNR with members of both Howard County Bird Club and Anne Arundel Bird Club joining in to construct the near 50 foot Acopian Bird Saver/Paracord bird excluders.

Collision monitoring began this week at Howard Community College at their request and efforts to begin retrofitting the most significant areas are currently being discussed.

We hope to communicate with all of you about this year's important legislative season and invite anyone interested in sharing their talents with fellow conservationists to advance the actions taken on behalf of Maryland's bird life.

Lastly, I regret to announce that Committee member Les Roslund, is stepping down from the Committee. He will be missed, but his email queue will shrink precipitously.

Kurt Schwarz, Chair Conservation Committee

Call to Action: Safe Skies Maryland

For many in our communities, the presence of birds is directly proportionate to the quality of life enjoyed by their residents. Indeed, we are living at a time when bees are no longer considered pests but valued for their critical role in pollination and where a whole generation is growing plants they no longer consider to be weeds in order to support the migrant known as the Monarch. But what of the many species of migrant birds and the rising threat their populations cannot sustain? What if we could catapult the discussion of what they need to the forefront of our awareness in the way that the needs of bees and butterflies have most recently enjoyed?

In North America each year one billion healthy migrating birds fail to complete the cycle of migration, successfully reproduce and rear young, and return to whence they came to await the next cycle as they meet swiftly, and violently, the unseen wall of glass. It is a loss of tragic and rising proportion that calls squarely into question our determination to require that we advance the discussion of whether or not the protection of birds has a place at the roundtable of sustainability.

Your voice in this discussion will be most critical in the upcoming legislative season. As many of you know, last year legislation was introduced into both the Maryland House and Senate that would advance the protection of birds in a reasonable step to require, where applicable, bird safe design features be added to all new or major construction GSA projects. When these features are selected in the design phase of the project, they are cost-neutral because they require a choice in one area over another one of lesser effect. Perhaps, what makes this effort doubly necessary is that bird safe design is also energy-efficient design.

Your voice in this discussion will be most critical in the upcoming legislative season.

Most of the solutions created that can now be used to exclude birds were originally designed to limit solar exchange and reduce heating and cooling costs. Glass buildings are notoriously energy inefficient often transferring significant, additional operational costs to the inhabitants over the life cycle of that building. At a

time when energy usage is as the forefront of the sustainability question, wouldn't it be beneficial to consider not just the one-time cost of building a structure, but what it will cost that community in energy usage, waste, and other unsustainable, unintended consequences such as the loss of biodiversity?

This year, Senator Guy Guzzone has graciously agreed to once again sponsor the updated bill now called The Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2019. Maryland is currently a leader in sustainability and we'd like to keep it that way. Preventing energy waste and the protection of birds, both for quality of life as well as the ecological services they provide, can and should be part of the continued discussion toward a sustainable future. It will take each of us in our respective counties reaching out to our legislators, asking for their support of this worthy endeavor, and being the voice of a generation of birds who need us to speak on their behalf. Please see the update action alert on the Safe Skies Maryland website at www.safeskiesmaryland.org and call, write letters, join us on our lobby days, and let's do for birds what has been done for bees and butterflies! We can continue to keep Maryland beautiful by coming together to advance sustainability.

Beth Decker, Director
Safe Skies Maryland

Home Needed for Rick Blom's Journal Article Reference Collection

In July 2018, Marcia Watson and Gene Scarpulla visited the Roger Tory Peterson Institute (RTPI) in Jamestown, New York, located in the far western part of the state near Lake Erie. Gene spent two days in their archives poring through 20 boxes of the late Rick Blom's files searching for Gull Day data. Although Gene did not find any Gull Day data, he discovered a treasure trove of journal articles through 2002 — some national, some international, and some state publications. Many of these articles are not available for free, or available at all, on the Internet. When Rick passed away in 2002, Gene facilitated the transfer of Rick's files to RTPI. At that time, the RTPI president envisioned the Institute as an information source for ornithological researchers. Since then, RTPI has become more of a museum and public outreach facility. At the present time, the Institute has no real need for Rick's files and would be willing to transfer them to a location where they could be put to better use as a literature reference collection. The collection contains a multitude of journal articles on individual families, genera, and species. The collection would probably require about four file cabinets and about 1000 manila folders to organize and refile the collection (and a memorial plaque should be created honoring Rick). Gene is seeking suggestions for potential locations that could possibly become a home for Rick's journal article collection. Prospective locations would not need to be an MOS location. The location would need to be fairly centrally located (e.g., Irish Grove and Carey Run are too remote for easy access). If you have any suggestion for a potential home for Rick Blom's journal article reference collection, please contact Gene at ejscarp@comcast.net.

Eugene J. Scarpulla, Editor

The Maryland Entomologist, Maryland Birdlife

Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report

September 23, 2018

The Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC) has reached the following record decisions since the last committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report covers MD/DCRC review package 175. MD/DCRC report numbers are in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. New "state" species (marked with asterisks) include Prairie Falcon and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher for DC.

These additions bring the total species on the Official Lists of the Birds of DC to 342. The total species on the Official Lists of the Birds of MD remains at 452. More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web pages at the following URL:

<https://mdbirds.org/records-committee/>

MD Records Accepted:

Limpkin, *Aramus guarauna* [MD/2018-036] Dayton, Howard County. 10-Jun-2018. One bird.

Trindade Petrel, *Pterodroma arminjoniana* [MD/2013-056] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 31-Jul-2013. One dark-faced bird.

Trindade Petrel, *Pterodroma arminjoniana* [MD/2013-051] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 31-Jul-2013. One bird, dark morph.

Trindade Petrel, *Pterodroma arminjoniana* [MD/2013-039] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 31-Jul-2013. One bird, light morph.

Trindade Petrel, *Pterodroma arminjoniana* [MD/2013-046] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 31-Jul-2013. One bird, dark morph.

Trindade Petrel, *Pterodroma arminjoniana* [MD/2013-047] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 31-Jul-2013. One

bird, light morph.

Trindade Petrel, *Pterodroma arminjoniana* [MD/2013-041] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 31-Jul-2013. One intermediate-dark bird.

Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana* [MD/2018-032] West Friendship, Howard County. 02-Jun-2018. One bird.

Carolina Chickadee, *Poecile carolinensis* [MD/2018-027] C&O Canal, Little Orleans, Allegany County. 16-Jul-2014. One bird.

Carolina Chickadee, *Poecile carolinensis* [MD/2015-053] Little Orleans, Allegany County. 14-Feb-2015. One bird.

Carolina Chickadee, *Poecile carolinensis* [MD/2015-050] Bonds Landing, Oldtown, Allegany County. 17-May-2015. One bird.

Carolina Chickadee, *Poecile carolinensis* [MD/2015-051] Little Orleans, Allegany County. 28-Jun-2015. One bird.

MD Records Not Accepted

Brewer's Blackbird, *Euphagus cyanocephalus* [MD/2018-002] Rehobeth, Somerset County. 07-Jan-2018. One bird.

DC Records Accepted

*Prairie Falcon, *Falco mexicanus* [DC/2017-020] Potomac River. 25-Mar-2017 through 16-Apr-2017. One bird.

*Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus* [DC/2018-031] Hains Point. 20-May-2018. One bird.

Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

Statewide Compiler Needed: Maryland Mid-winter Bird Count

Mary Anne Fluke is stepping down as the Statewide Compiler of the Maryland Mid-winter Bird Count. The Maryland Ornithological Society and *Maryland Birdlife* thank Mary Anne for her two years of service and we wish her success in her future endeavors. MOS is seeking a volunteer to fill this position. If you might be interested in volunteering, please contact *Maryland Birdlife* Editor Gene Scarpulla at ejscarp@comcast.net and he will assist you in making the transition. Without a Statewide Compiler, the Maryland Mid-winter Bird Count data will cease to be published in *Maryland Birdlife*.

Eugene J. Scarpulla, Editor

The Maryland Entomologist, Maryland Birdlife

Scholarship Committee

MOS awards scholarships to Maryland educators for workshops taught at National Audubon Society's camp on Hog Island, Maine. Recipients are teachers, camp counselors, park rangers, naturalists, and those who incorporate nature education as part of their careers.

Here are a few remarks from the 2018 scholarship recipients. They were delighted with their summer adventures and are equipped with many new ideas of how to share their new knowledge.

"As with any good sleep-away camp, we sang about nature at night and shared what we learned that day. We learned observational skills from Pete Salmonsohn's memory game. Sound mapping helped us teach students birdsong skills. Craig Newberger and Trudy Phillips led field trips to a tide pool, stream and bog to identify animals and plants living in these environments."

Heidi Osterman – Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week

"Probably my favorite session of the whole week was doing the dissection of an osprey with Dr. B. He broke down the inside and

we got to see how the musculature functions with regards to wing movements. Because I'm sub-licensed through the state and federal governments to handle and collect bird parts through work, he allowed me to take a few wing feathers as educational aids."

Colleen Lacy – Raptor Rapture

"During the trips and programs, I took as many notes and little sketches to document as possible. When I teach a sketching class, I emphasize that the sketches don't have to be perfect, and it's the action of connecting the pen to one's brain that is essential."

Last but not least, the instructors were amazing! Each and every one had a unique set of skills and were excellent birders and teachers. Even better, they worked together beautifully."

Ikumi Kayama – Field Ornithology

Anna Urciolo, Scholarship Chair

MBCP Citizen Science Projects Wrap up Field Work

The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP) conducts two primary citizen science programs: the Maryland Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring and the Important Bird Area (IBA) Monitoring Programs. Both programs completed successful field seasons in 2018.

This was the second full year for monitoring Bald Eagle nests. Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in this program. If you participated in Bald Eagle nest monitoring, please make sure you have entered all your nest visits data. We established this program to be able to establish a baseline of data on bald eagle nest productivity in the (hopefully unlikely) event some future condition creates a population decline similar to DDT contamination in the second half of the 20th century. Our next step is to begin to analyze the data from the past two years and prepare a summary, which will be published in the *Yellowthroat* and posted to the MBCP web site. We officially had 289 nests assigned in 2018, but not all of those were active. From aerial surveys completed in 2004 we estimate there are still at least 500 nests we do not yet have in our database! Please help us identify as many of these nests as possible. Starting in November, when leaves have dropped from deciduous trees, it is easier to spot existing nests. You can report nests at <https://marylandbirds.org/report-bald-eagle-nest>.

Audubon Maryland-DC and MBCP have partnered to monitor IBAs in 2017 and 2018. Funding for this monitoring is from DNR and Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust. Cove Point is interested in IBAs located in southern Maryland, and five IBAs in this area were included for 2018. Field work occurred in May and June. Data are now being analyzed and a report for each IBA monitored will be produced. These reports will be posted on both Audubon Maryland-DC and MBCP web sites, and a summary article will be submitted to the *Yellowthroat*.

If you are interested in participating in our citizen science programs, visit <https://marylandbirds.org/> or contact Chris Eberly, director@marylandbirds.org.

Chris Eberly, Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership

Member Spotlight: Chuck Hager

When Chuck Hager and Pam Weir were fifth graders in Hagerstown, Billie Taylor, their teacher and an MOS member, piled her class into a school bus bound for Carey Run Sanctuary in Garrett County. Billie encouraged her students to learn their birds on both these school outings and the annual summer nature camps that she and other MOS members led at Carey Run during the 1960's.

"Billie was a teacher and mentor to many of us," remembers Chuck, a Hagerstown dentist and past-president of the Allegany & Garrett Counties' Bird Club, and a regular at Billie's camps. "She'd put up mist nets, and we'd go on bird walks, clean up trash, and sleep in the house."

At 162 acres, Carey Run is the second-largest of the ten MOS sanctuaries. Prized and studied for its diverse habitat of fields and woodlands, streams and a pond, it's a destination for birders and botanists, limnologists, and entomologists. A farmhouse, built in 1887 from the property's white pines, has a kitchen, bedrooms and indoor plumbing, and can be reserved for overnight stays. The land is historically significant, with Braddock Road running along the Sanctuary's southern border.

Beginning in 1996, Chuck and Pam (by then married) re-ignited Billie Taylor's legacy with the Carey Run Nature Camp, a week-long overnight camp for 4th-8th grade children. Their three kids, Emily, T. C., and Olivia, were among the first campers.

Every year since, Chuck's vision has fueled and built the outdoor school. He's a fierce advocate for inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards, by immersing them in the natural world. He believes it's the only way to create new naturalists, especially with society's dependence on digital gadgets.

"Kids have no idea what's outside," Chuck says. "If we don't get them involved now, there'll be a big brain drain in natural science." Chuck enthuses about myriad opportunities Carey Run provides for educating youngsters. "We make it fun and inspire them to love nature."



For a \$40 fee, up to 20 kids register to study, play, work, and eat outdoors for a week in June ("when the birds are still singing," says Chuck). Taking vacation from his busy dentistry practice, Chuck assembles a staff which includes the Hager family, camp alumnae, and other volunteers. Chuck's sisters Anne and Robin often pitch in. The team preps the camp, loading the house with camp necessities: field guides, boots, a computer, tools, and food for the week. The group puts up a large canopy on the lawn as a shield from the elements, and the counselors pitch their tents.

Arriving campers receive a Carey Run Nature Camp t-shirt (created by former camper John C. Williams), a notebook, and a paperback field guide, Chan Robbins's *Birds of North America*.

Campers begin each day at 6:30 a.m. with a donut, orange juice and milk, followed by a bird walk. At 8 a.m. the campers return to the farmhouse picnic tables for breakfast (Pam oversees the three meals

every day for campers, staff, and visitors). The daily bird list (to be added to the week's list) is started on a whiteboard. Breakfast cleanup is followed by a game, perhaps

the "Bino Game", a fast-paced relay designed to hone the campers' binocular skills. That's followed by a snack (perhaps applesauce from the old orchard on site), then a program with a speaker. Lunch and cleanup comes next, then more games ("Kick-the-can" and "Jailbreak" are favorites), a work project, and another program (e.g. a butterfly walk or a study of pond life). Active play alternates with snack time, programs, projects, and dinner until shower time ("Always a challenge," says Chuck) and bedtime, which finds the campers bunking down in the farmhouse.

Daily care for the sanctuary cultivates the campers' skills and confidence. "We get them working, and we do a big project every year," says Chuck. Kids at the 2018 camp built 15 bluebird houses, helped by an industrial education teacher. (The Carey Run bluebird nest box trail is monitored by former camper Adam Rossi.) "We've cut down Russian olive trees. Kids clear trails, trim bushes, and spread gravel. We're creating an arboretum and planting more wildflowers."

Hands-on learning is key to Chuck's philosophy. Olivia Hager conducted a 2.5 hour "bio-blast" of a field this year, with campers attempting to identify every living thing they could find using resource materials on hand.

Chuck's pool of speakers — he includes 3 to 4 per day — is a

If we don't get [kids] involved now, there'll be a big brain drain in natural science.

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

dazzling array of local knowledge and commitment. Citizen scientists and educators, including faculty from Garrett College, Allegany College, and the Appalachian Environmental Laboratory volunteer eagerly.

"Kevin Dodge (a Garrett College professor) starts the camp off with a bang because he's so entertaining," Chuck says. "I've heard his talk on 'Nighttime Noises' thirty times, but there's always something new."

The Carey Run campers have enjoyed night-lighting bugs with an entomologist and interacting with snakes brought by an avid collector. Campers gasped when swooped by a Harris's Hawk during a falconer's visits. MOS member Charlotte Folk presented wildflower programs for years. A volunteer gave a talk on wild edibles entitled "Cattails: Nature's Supermarket". Each year Chuck's brother Phil Hager, Anne Arundel County's Planning and Zoning Officer, devises a game to teach land use issues. The kids adopt different identities — environmentalists, developers, and animals — and debate habitat protection and resource management. Emily Hager gives a program on Braddock Road with the "Trees of Knowledge" trail, built by her brother T.C. Hager as his Eagle Scout project. T.C. raised money for thirty-six signs lining the trail, describing the sanctuary's flora and fauna over 250 years, and depicting General Braddock's use of the road during the French and Indian War.

The team effort pays off: campers return year after year, and enrollment fills by word of mouth. Campers who "age out" of the program often beg to come back as counselors and kitchen helpers. To accommodate willing older kids, Chuck has offered "Carey Run Work Weeks" so they can stay at the sanctuary to complete projects. Campers have returned as adults to volunteer.

"Many kids who've gone through the camp now have master's degrees and doctorates in science, and even teach in the field," Chuck says.

Continued on page 18

Member spotlight features MOS members who have gone above and beyond for Maryland birds and conservation. If you know of a member whose story would fit this section, please contact the editor: yellowthroat@mdbirds.org



YMOS News Fall 2018

YMOS Presentations

The YMOS youth birders have developed a presentation that chapters may be interested in putting on their agenda. To date, the students have presented at the Anne Arundel, Talbot, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Howard Chapters. Contact George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com), and we will try to link up YMOS students with your club.

World Series of Birding and the Birdathon

After last May's successful participation in the World Series of Birding in New Jersey, four youth teams are organizing for another run next May. YMOS is planning on fielding a high school team, two middle school teams, and a Carbon Free team. As last year, the group will hold its annual Birdathon this coming March. Last year's successful Birdathon allowed us to field four teams in the national competition, and the group is indebted to the many who pledged funds to support the teams. While more information on this year's Birdathon will be forthcoming, any pledges can be emailed to George Radcliffe at the above address.

First Annual Maryland Bird Conservation Symposium

On Saturday, January 26, 2019, YMOS and the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP) will host the first Maryland Bird Conservation Symposium. The symposium will focus on the current state of bird conservation in Maryland and will include presentations by professionals as well as youth. Pulling together individuals from agencies, non-profits, and other groups, this will be a unique opportunity to learn what is happening in Maryland Bird conservation and how you can get involved.

The event will be held at Patuxent National Wildlife Visitors Center in Laurel, MD from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Details on both the event and registration will be available later this fall on the YMOS website (mdbirds.org/young-birders) and the MBCP site (marylandbirds.org).

George Radcliffe, YMOS



CECIL COUNTY

Cecil County has a new park. The County was able to buy the Cold Bittersweet Golf Course on Rt. 213 just south of Elkton. The course closed for several years now was reconditioned and dedicated in September. It includes walking paths, a pond that will be stocked for fishing and volleyball courts. The old course includes wetlands where Glossy Ibis and herons can be seen. Ten years ago this winter a flock of White-winged Crossbills was observed there as well. This should make a great new addition to the birding possibilities locally. Now we can't wait for the new Bohemia River State Park to come to fruition in the county as well.

On the road yet again, Kim and Ken Drier find themselves at Lake Louise in the Canadian Rockies. We have all followed the terrible fires out in California, yet, Canada has had their own to deal with in British Columbia. Upon driving up to the lake from the Calgary airport we could not even see the mountains through the smoke initially. Snow and rain the second day cleared the air somewhat though we could still smell the smoke. Flocks of Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills were found daily on the hotel grounds. Other birds of note were the Varied Thrush, Black-billed Magpies, Stellar and Gray Jays, and Townsend's Warblers. American Three-toed Woodpeckers and Bohemian Waxwings accounted for the two life birds for Ken during the trip.

Club President and MOS Secretary Maryanne Dolan is on her way to the Bayou State of Louisiana and should report back to us upon her return for the next edition of Chapter Chatter.

Again Kim and Ken. Back in March we stopped in the United Arab Emirates for a few days on our way home from India. While there we visited their Falcon Hospital. This is the Year of Sheikh Zayed, the founder of the country who would have been 100 this year. His name is also on a building at the John Hopkins Medical Center. He founded the hospital in 2007. It specializes in care for falcons used in hunting. They arrive from throughout the world. All the falcons that come to the hospital travel with their own passports and usually fly first class. Lithuania Airlines has special seating specifically designed for the birds. The facility also has a breeding program that releases the birds in countries throughout the Middle East. There is also a hotel associated with the hospital in case you need to house your pet for either short or long-term vacations. It was an interesting couple of hours spent watching the staff treat their patients performing such procedures as repairing broken feathers and allowing the birds access to their flight cages. Ken Drier

HARFORD COUNTY

My travels to Brazil in July exceeded my expectations. The trip was led by Mark Pretti (mpnaturaltours@earthlink.net) Our group of nine birders explored 3 distinct biomes: The Pantanal, Southern Amazon, and the Cerrado. The Pantanal is the largest freshwater wetland in the world. From November to April, about 80% of the 600 mile by 300 mile area is under water. In July the waters are drying up, but there are still areas of permanent water. These places are teeming with birds and wildlife. We had barely sat down to lunch at our first lodge, when someone called out "Tamandua"! Just outside, not 25 feet from where we were eating, was a Giant Anteater! This habitat is amazing and wildlife unbelievable. Hyacinth, Blue and Yellow, and Yellow-collared Macaw were some of the flashiest species. Jabiru nests, perched on snags with Monk Parakeets building addendum nests beneath, were a common sight. There were 5 species of Ibis! I had experienced a spectacular Jaguar sighting in 2008 in Brazil. I could not believe when there one was hunting caiman along the shore of the Rio Pixaim! Other notable mammals in the Pantanal included: Ocelot, Southern Anteater, Capybara and several species of monkeys.

An internal flight from Cuiaba to Alta Floresta brought us to the Southern Amazonian Forest. We traveled by boat to the renowned Cristalino Jungle Lodge for 5 nights. I had been hearing about this amazing lodge nestled in pristine Amazonian forest for about 10 years. I have visited many ecotourism lodges in my travels, but Cristalino was the best by far! Surrounded by pristine forest, the call of Red-handed Howlers served as a wake up call in the morning. We walked forest trails and observed birds high above the canopy from the towers. We traveled up and down the Cristalino River daily in search of birds and wildlife. A few highlights included a family of Giant Otter fishing, Tapirs emerging from the river to the bank, a pair of Sun Bittern, Great Potoo, Long-tailed Potoo, and Pavonine Quetzels.

The last biome for exploration was the Cerrado (pronounce say-hah-doe). It is the Portuguese word for "thick". The habitat is complex and includes grassland, savanna, and scrubland with mostly sandy soil. Curl-crested Jay, Red-shouldered Macaw, Helmeted Manakin were a few avian highlights. Some of the group also glimpsed the Mane Wolf.

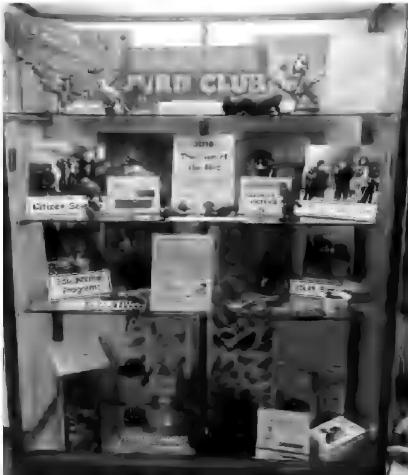
I saw 321 species of birds of which 106 were lifers. A grand total of 30 mammals were spotted by the group. Mark Pretti is an incredible guide with the ability to explain and demonstrate the complex interactions of flora and fauna. I learned so much! Jean Wheeler

A New Harford Bird Club Social Event

New members, Steve and Tika Dannenfelser offered HBC an opportunity for a new social event, *Movie in the Garden*. Coordinating with field trip chair, Tom Gibson, the club was offered an evening of backyard fun. We visited the Dannenfelser's gardens, identified birds (of course) and enjoyed a shared meal before sunset. The movie, *Birders: Central Park Effect* was viewed under the stars and enjoyed by all. Deb Stewart

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Harford Bird Club member, Mary Murray set up a display of our Bird Club at the Bel Air branch of the Harford County Public Library in honor of Year of the Bird. Feedback on the photos, materials, and handouts has been positive — visitors took flyers or photographed the posted field trip schedule. HBC can now take this show on the road to other branches. We plan to post field trips and club links on library community bulletin boards in future. Deb Stewart



MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Daphne Gemmill writes that Angola, the latest country to emerge from a civil war (2002), is now a prime birding destination. "It has the fourth largest bird list in Africa with 996 species of which 18 are endemics. Until recently, the only way to visit good birding spots was to camp. Today you have an option to stay in clean hotels or small lodges ranging from two-star to -four. New road construction is underway making it easier to travel from birding spot to birding spot. Being Africa, you still have many miles of dusty, pot-holed roads. The core birding route is quite safe. The biggest danger is crazy drivers. During my three-week trip in August, I saw or heard 400 bird species and saw all the endemic birds. Highlights were the national bird, Red-crested Turaco, and my bird-of-the-trip, Pennant-winged Nightjar. Sadly, the civil war and the bush meat trade have decimated the mammal population. The only mammals seen regularly were squirrels. All in all it was a fascinating trip to an off-the-beaten path destination."

In June, Gail Mackiernan and Barry Cooper, along with two friends from England, traveled to Mongolia in search of birds. Gail writes, "Mongolia is a truly incredible birding destination. The immense grasslands, incredible Gobi Desert, surprisingly varied wetlands, and the limited human habitation over much of the country outside of the capital made this an unforgettable experience. The total population of Mongolia is only about 3 million, of which half live in Ulaanbaatar; making it one of the least densely populated nations on the planet. Our in-country arrangements were through Tum-Ecotour Ltd. whose owner, Khumbaa Tumen-delger (Tumen for short), is probably the most experienced birder in Mongolia. Our guide was Frank Lambert, a Brit who has spent years birding in Asia. In 17 days, the group traveled to the dense taiga forest of the north, south through the steppe grasslands

and into the Great Gobi Desert Protected area near Mongolia's southern border with China. We camped, stayed in yurts (*gers* in the Mongolian language) with an occasional respite in local hotels. Except for hotel nights, all food was cooked and eaten in the field. Most of our travel was off-road, on faint tracks or even over trackless desert. We experienced sandstorms, hailstorms, wind but almost no rain. It was wonderful. The groups recorded about 175 species of birds, including some of the most-wanted by world birders: Black-billed Capercaillie at its lek, Altai Snowcock, Oriental Plover, Pallas's Sand-grouse (see page 17 for photo), Amur and Saker Falcons at their nests, Henderson's Ground-jay, Mongolian Lark, Azure Tit, and Saxaul Sparrow as well as four species of crane. We also scored with mammals, including Przewalski's Horse (the only true wild horse), wild Bactrian Camels and several cute hopping Jerboas."



Bruce Crise writes about Iceland:

"My son, Owen Crise and I were in Iceland kayaking the north-west fjords and then went looking for the White-tailed Eagle in the NW region of the island. We stopped off at the White Tailed Eagle Center (<https://www.westfjords.is/en/what-to-see-and-do/services/the-whitetailed-eagle-centre>) and we were told there had been recent sightings in the area WNW of Búðardalur. We lucked out and found a pair of eagles along the western coast at approximately 65.143979, -22.317519. We saw one immature eagle perched along the side of the road and an adult soaring while being harassed by a couple crows".



Geoff Edgar reports on the Amazon: "On August 22 I set out with my birding traveling companion, Johnnie Ramos, to an ecolodge, the Explorers Inn, in the Amazon river basin in Peru. The trip there totaled 30 hours of travel time and required three flights, and a bus trip. Our last flight landed in Puerto Maldonado, a small town in the middle of a mayoral election. We then embarked on a two-hour boat trip and the birding immediately started. We almost immediately saw a new heron, a Cocoi Heron. On our boat ride we also saw a jaguar sitting on the shore of the river. This is a rare sighting in this part of South America. The

extensive travel was worth it. We saw 248 species, most of which were new to me. The trip highlights included a 4:30 AM trek to a 150-foot high observation tower where we spent over two hours looking for birds in the treetops. During the time we saw a Harpy Eagle, multiple Paradise Tanagers, Turquoise Tanagers, and many other exotic species. Despite my fear of heights and the swaying of the tower, it was an experience I will never forget. Johnnie's favorite bird of the trip was the Scarlet Winged Puffbird. Mine was the Great Potoo, the largest member of the order, which includes nightjars and allies. We saw it twice, once on a nighttime river boat ride when I couldn't see what everybody else clearly saw, and once during the day when I had a clear view of this odd-looking bird. After 7 days and six nights of almost non-stop birding we reluctantly began the 30-plus-hour return trip home.

Jim Tate has announced: "I have been accepted into a class of three novices at the **Voice of the Naturalist**. Orietta Estrada, and Christine Magee are my classmates. Now that I am no longer CEO out at B-CC Isaac Walton League of America, I plan to turn my attention back to birds!" Chris Wright

Finally, one more Montgomery Bird Club traveler reports:

Summer 2018 brought me three trips that I hadn't expected to take.

I wasn't overly thrilled when my boss sent me to a meeting in Toulouse, France, in July. But quickly I realized it was an opportunity for birding. After fulfilling my business commitments, I spent a few vacation days in the Camargue (Rhone Delta) along the Mediterranean coast and pumped up my life list. I gawked at flocks of noisy Greater Flamingos, which, unlike their shrimp-hued American Flamingo counterparts, are a light pink color. I was surprised by early arriving shorebirds with bright orange legs, Spotted Redshank and Common Redshank. A Sacred Ibis landed near me as I was admiring a rookery of Grey Herons. I stumbled across a pair of European Bee-eaters decked out in snazzy blocks of blue, yellow, and orang-y brown plumage as they perched in a snag under the hot midday sun. I studied multitudes of Black-headed Gulls and delighted in many other species, including the Eurasian Nightjar that swooped across the motorway as I whizzed to the airport on my last morning in France.

Bermuda was the destination my sister chose for a cruise in June and she took me along. I was thrilled to see White-tailed Tropicbirds. Alas, our visit started a week after the last Bermuda Petrel (Cahow) had left the local breeding grounds. (I will try for this endangered species next time.) Pelagics were nowhere to be seen on our North Atlantic passage — except on the very last evening aboard ship, just east of Cape Cod. Before sunset, shearwaters appeared, Cory's, Greater, and Sooty, all lifers. I also snapped photos of a bird that was definitely not a shearwater and posted them on the ABA Facebook page "What's that Bird?" I got expert confirmation that I had scored a Northern Fulmar, also a lifer.

In early July, I accompanied a friend to a family get-together near Bozeman, Montana. We stayed next to farmland that hosted breeding Wilson's Snipe and Yellow Warblers. A pair of Sandhill Cranes flew overhead in the evening. A day trip to the Missouri

Headwaters State Park netted six species of swallows: violet-green, bank, barn, cliff, tree, and northern rough-winged. Three dozen American White Pelicans graced the skies and rivers, a Peregrine Falcon came and went from a nest tucked into a crevice on a cliff face, a pair of Bullock's Orioles chased around our picnic table, a duo of Rock Wrens posed conveniently on...a rock, and I added a species to my life list: Lark Sparrow. Cheryl Hogue

PATUXENT

In early summer, Patuxent Bird Club members Gene Scarpulla and Marcia Watson traveled by train with Donna Finnegan and Marty Wright (both Baltimore Bird Club) to stay with friends Jim and Denise Potyraj at their ranch in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of Colorado. The stay included visits to local birding hotspots, including Deweese Reservoir, the San Isabel National Forest, and some sites along the Arkansas River. The Maryland birders observed 115 species of birds while staying in Colorado, including Cinnamon Teal, Western Grebe, Sandhill Crane, California Gull, Gray Flycatcher, Western Screech-Owl, Short-Eared Owl, Prairie Falcon, MacGillivray's Warbler, and Western Tanager. Special treats right at the Potyraj ranch included Golden Eagle, Common Poorwill, Common Nighthawk, Sage Thrasher, and a nesting Say's Phoebe. The ranch also featured nesting Western Meadowlarks, Vesper Sparrows, Lark Sparrows, Mountain Bluebirds, Violet-green Swallows, and Broad-tailed and Black-chinned Hummingbirds. The three-day train trip to Colorado also afforded the opportunity to bird from the observation car. American White Pelicans were easily seen while passing Barr Lake State Park in Colorado, Ring-necked Pheasants were in fields in Illinois, and a cluster of Cliff Swallow nests was found near the Cass County Courthouse in Nebraska.

In July, Marcia and Gene continued their travels with a road trip to Pennsylvania and New York. The multi-purpose trip included a family wedding and a music concert, but the centerpiece was a visit to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, NY. Jamestown was Peterson's birthplace and boyhood home. The Institute has a large collection of the original artwork of Roger Tory Peterson, including the original plates for the *Peterson Field Guide to the Birds*. The artwork is beautifully displayed in the galleries of a spacious Arts and Crafts-style building that opened in 1993. The Institute's exhibits also feature many of Peterson's personal effects, such as hand-written notebooks, sketchbooks, study skins, cameras, binoculars, expedition clothing, and more. The Institute's 27-acre property offers a network of trails through woods, fields and wetlands. Overall the Institute provides a close-up look at the life and work of Roger Tory Peterson. If you'd like to read more about the Institute, Marcia has written an article about their visit, complete with photos, for the September-October 2018 newsletter of the Patuxent Bird Club, available at <https://patuxentbirdclub.org/newsletters/>.

The Patuxent Bird Club will be adding another species to the checklist that it maintains for Prince George's County. On July 8, 2018, Jeff Shenot captured a video of a Roseate Spoonbill in the marsh at the historic Billingsley House on the Prince George's side of the Patuxent River. The bird was viewed from Mount Calvert

Historical and Archaeological Park, to the south of Billingsley, and though the bird was distant, Jeff's video clearly shows the long, spatulate bill of the bird, making the identification unmistakable. A Roseate Spoonbill had been seen earlier across the river at the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary in Anne Arundel County, and of course there was a long-staying Spoonbill at North Beach in Calvert County in mid-June to early July. We have no way to know if the Prince George's bird was the same individual as the Calvert County bird. A few other birders managed to see the PG Spoonbill, but it was a one-day wonder. Jeff's video is on Flickr at <https://flickr/p/27z44rD>. Marcia Watson

WASHINGTON COUNTY

You may not know the family, yet, but you will know the large pole barn just west of Interstate-68 at the Sideling Hill cut in the mountain with their farm name painted, decades ago on the roof — Valley Meadow Farms. Owned by new MOS members, the Stumpf family operates a guest farmhouse vacation rental on the farm, and writes "we will be forever grateful to MOS friends and advisors George Alderson and Kurt Schwarz for rallying members to deter state planned motorized recreations trails nearby."

This year the family has been delighted to have an immature American Bald Eagle frequent the property. They first noted an adult eagle with two immatures "enjoying a feast of fresh pond catfish. A single bird has been seen frequently since. Could it be choosing a nest site atop the walnut tree where a mass of sticks have been placed?"

The family wishes to thank Kurt Schwarz and Chris Eberly for confirming it as a juvenile Bald Eagle. During his visit to the farm, Chris, Director of Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership wrote:

"Whether you want to capitalize on warbler migration, bring your horse to a rider's retreat, or just relax at the bucolic farmhouse, Valley Meadow Farms is a perfect getaway. The property includes Sideling Hill forests and (as the farm is aptly named) valley meadows, complete with a rambling stream and walking trails. You can find Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Blackburnian Warblers in migration, owls year-round, and the iconic summer song of an Eastern Whip-poor-will. It is easy to get to, but you and your family will feel wonderfully secluded from the outside world."

Karla Graul

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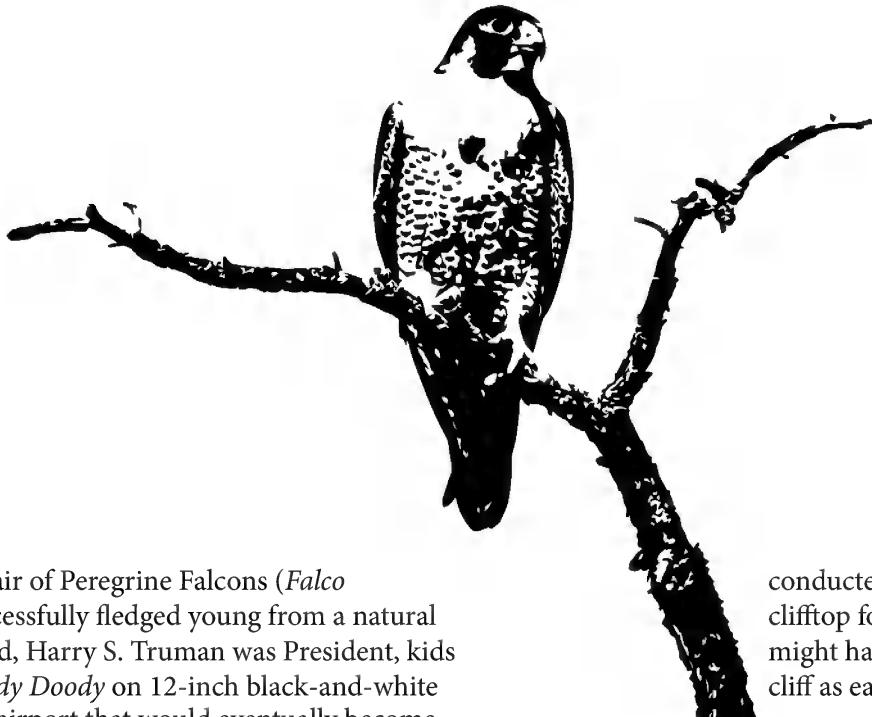
NEAR HANCOCK, MD ON SIDELING HILL
FAMILY OWNED & CARED FOR BY MOS MEMBERS



Peregrine Falcon

An entire eastern population was extirpated. Reintroductions were successful and pairs of peregrines nested on manmade structures. Now, two chicks successfully fledged from a cliff in Maryland, and are the first known to take wing from a non-manmade structure in 70 years.

By Matt Olear



The last time a pair of Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) successfully fledged young from a natural nest site in Maryland, Harry S. Truman was President, kids were watching *Howdy Doody* on 12-inch black-and-white televisions, and the airport that would eventually become known as BWI was about to begin service under the name Friendship International Airport.

According to Brian McDonald, a longtime resident of the DC metropolitan area, who became active in the sport of falconry in the latter half of the 1940s, a peregrine pair nesting on the Maryland Heights cliff across the Potomac from Harpers Ferry hatched three chicks – two males and a female – in 1950. McDonald took the two males and left the female.

Although it is unknown whether or not that lone female ultimately fledged, she may have been the last known peregrine chick to take flight from a cliff in the state until this past June, when a falcon pair that has reoccupied a historic nest site in Western MD fledged two chicks.

The new pair's presence was confirmed in March 2017, but based on observations made by a hawkwatcher who

By the mid-1960s, the population in the western U.S. had declined by an estimated 80 to 90 percent, and the entire eastern population was extirpated.

conducted an autumn count from the clifftop for several years, the falcons might have taken up residence at the cliff as early as 2014. It is not known

whether they fledged young in the intervening years.

They did hatch one chick last year, but it disappeared when it was about 3-4 weeks old, likely the victim of either Great-horned Owl predation or a fall from what appeared to be a shallow nest ledge.

This year, the falcons relocated to a larger, more exposed ledge, and the two chicks they successfully fledged despite this spring's unseasonably cold, wet weather became the first peregrine chicks known to take wing from an MD cliff in nearly 70 years.

Owing primarily to reproductive failure caused by the extensive use of organochlorine pesticides such as DDT, peregrines declined precipitously and catastrophically throughout North America, the United Kingdom, and most of Europe in the mid-twentieth century.

By the mid-1960s, the population in the western U.S. had declined by an estimated 80 to 90 percent, and the entire eastern population was extirpated.

As in other eastern states, in Maryland, where 10-11 pairs were known to occur historically in the state and along the Potomac, the peregrine's disappearance seems to have occurred essentially in two phases.

Many marginal nest sites that were more vulnerable to human disturbance were abandoned by the late 1930s or early 1940s, prior to widespread DDT use. Then the remaining sites became deserted as peregrines disappeared from the region in the post-war period and throughout the 1950s, with a few scattered pairs persisting into the early 1960s.

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By the time McDonald started visiting eyries in the mid-1940s, nests at Great Falls and Point of Rocks were already deserted, while the well-known Harpers Ferry site and the location where the falcons currently nest were still active, as were those on cliffs along the West Virginia side of the Potomac opposite the Allegany County Fairgrounds and downstream from the town of Keyser.

Those cliffs would also fall silent just a few years later, as the peregrine disappeared as a breeding bird in MD in the early to mid-1950s.

With 25 known nesting territories this year (up from 18 confirmed pairs during the 2002-2006 Atlas), MD now has more than twice as many breeding pairs as it did historically. Until the recent reoccupation of the cliff in Western MD, however, all known pairs since reintroductions began in the state in 1975 have nested on manmade structures.

In 2018, these sites included eight bridges, six former hack towers along the lower Eastern Shore, four buildings of various types (a skyscraper, a hotel, a lighthouse, and a derelict water tower), and several miscellaneous structures, including a power-plant stack, a dam, a docking platform, and a crane.

The geographic range of the species in MD has also shifted significantly eastward and southward following recolonization. Most pairs now nest within the Coastal Plain, whereas the original population occurred exclusively along the upper Potomac and lower Susquehanna Rivers and in the mountainous regions of the Piedmont, Blue Ridge, Ridge and Valley, and Appalachian Plateau.

Although the productivity of the state's population has remained stable, with about three young produced per successful nesting attempt according to Craig Koppie of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, its near-total reliance on the use of manmade structures continues to require intensive human management and will pose additional challenges following a recent reinterpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which was described in detail in the previous issue of *The Maryland Yellowthroat* (Vol. 38, No. 4).

Despite these and other challenges, the species' resilience and adaptability, the continued reoccupation of natural nest sites throughout the central Appalachians, and the stewardship of concerned citizens, including MOS members, all point to a bright future for peregrines in Maryland.

Matt Olear monitors several peregrine pairs as a volunteer with USFWS and MD DNR.



CAMERAS COLD WEATHER & WATERFOWL



WINTER TIPS

Image Credit: Joe Subolefsky

The shift of seasons brings me joy as a birder and as a photographer. I love the distinct differences between passerines, raptors, and waterfowl.

The webbed feet, their landing style, and the majestic calm appearance as they paddle through the water fascinate me. Photographing them and capturing them with a camera is a challenge I look forward to each year.

With Maryland's 3,190 miles of coastline, we live in an ideal location for viewing and photographing resident and migrating waterfowl. Coastline of this magnitude equals endless spots around our state to watch waterfowl and sometimes get amazing views of sea ducks.

Not only should you strive for technically correct photographs, but there are many environmental factors that can hinder your chances of snapping the perfect shot.

Temperature

It's cold. Searching for waterfowl or photographing them means long wait times in frigid temperatures. It's harder to manipulate binoculars or camera buttons while wearing gloves. Find a pair of gloves a warm hat, and comfy layers or shoot from your car with a beanbag.

Follow Joe Subolefsky's tips for close encounters of the web-footed kind this winter. Subolefsky is a professional photographer, member of the Harford County Bird Club, and lifelong outdoorsman.

Temperatures are often cooler near bodies of water. If it's 32°F at home, it could be 22°F along the Chesapeake Bay — check forecasts. In extreme cold, the temperature differences between outdoors and indoors could result in damage to your gear. Before returning indoors, pop the battery and card out of your camera and place your gear in a camera bag or dry sack. Keeping your camera in the bag for an hour or so will allow the gear to slowly increase to the current room temperature. Failure to do so, could cause condensation inside the camera resulting in camera failure.

Ice

Rivers and waterbodies freeze, forcing ducks and geese to shift slightly closer to the shoreline where the water is more likely to be open. This gives you the opportunity to grab a nice landing shot. If you position yourself close to the only open water spot, you know the birds will come in at some point.

Continued on page 18

MEMBER PHOTOS

Roseate Spoonbill. North Beach, Calvert Co.



Image Credit: George Jett

Pallas's Sandgrouse. Mongolia. See page 11 for details.



Image Credit: Gail Mackiernan

Wood Stork. West Friendship, Howard Co.

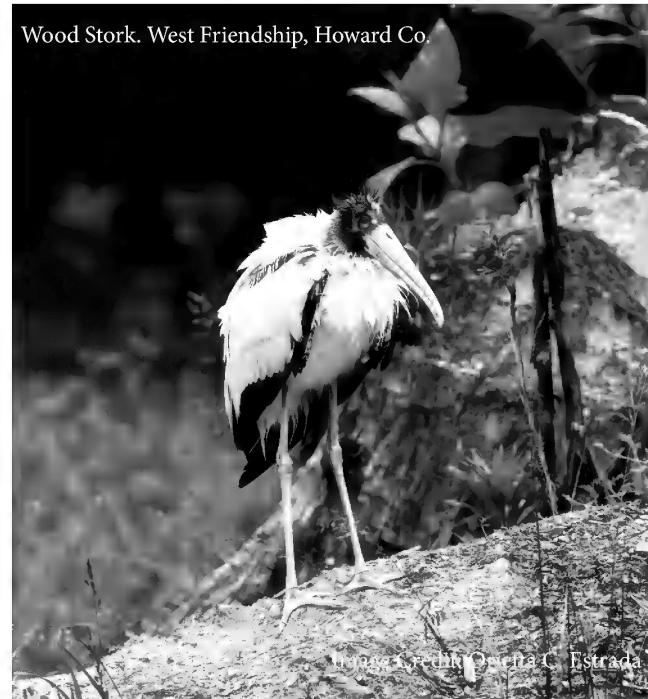


Image Credit: Michael C. Estrada

Photos

It was a good year for MD Birders. Much of the Maryland birding community was able to view several Florida specialties including: Anhinga, Wood Stork, and Roseate Spoonbill. The Anhinga was viewed at Paper Mill Flats in Baltimore Co., initially seen flying over, the bird, much to the delight of its admirers, remained for several days. The Roseate Spoonbill, seen at North Beach in Calvert Co., was only the fourth state record and a first for the county. A Roseate Spoonbill was also seen at Jug Bay. A Wood Stork made an appearance in West Friendship, Howard Co. at a residential home. Homeowners were gracious enough to allow birders to view the bird via a facilitator — one later appeared in Frederick Co.

Red-breasted Nuthatch.



In the *Winter Finch Forecast* for 2018-2019, Ron Pittaway, predicted an irruption year for finches, and other non-finches species, including Red-breasted Nuthatch (above) and, possibly, Bohemian Waxwing. Keep your eyes peeled and send your photos to the editor! For submission guidelines send an email to: yellowthroat@mdbirds.org

Cameras, Cold Weather, and Waterfowl

Water

Continued from page 16

Eye contact with your subject makes the photograph more than a photograph. Your photograph becomes a gateway into that animal's soul. This is extremely difficult to achieve in waterfowl because they come in fast, at odd angles, and land in various spots. Getting on the bird's level is key — this means getting into the water at certain locations to get the shot you desire. Find warm chest waders, invest in layers of warmth and pick a day that isn't going to kill you.

Wind

Wind makes all the difference in grabbing that perfect landing shot. All birds land into the wind. Check the wind direction and position yourself along the shoreline with the wind blowing on your back. This should set you up for the birds to land facing you.

Birds will never fly over the heads of other birds on final dissent. This means if you see three coming in, the order in which they are flying will be the order in which they land. This allows you to focus on the right bird at the right time.

Shadow Pointed at Subject

Ideally you want the sun with the wind. You want the sun and wind hitting your back as you view or photograph the waterfowl. If you're working in the morning hours you want the wind to be coming from the east to south-east. If you are facing into the wind, you'll get nothing but a great view of the bird's back end.

Habitat

If you own property that is conducive to waterfowl, creating a photograph is an option. If you know the waterfowl come to a certain area in the morning, figure out where the sun rises and position yourself with the sun to your back.

If you want to add texture to your photograph, do it in the habitat. Add a branch for the ducks to perch. Place a limb along the shore. Position a stump with moss on it to bring some color into a blah shot.

By creating the photograph that you desire in the habitat, the only thing you leave up to chance is the bird itself.

Place a blind where you think you will shoot the best shots. If the ducks don't move into the spot you want them, the shot isn't worth taking.

Time

You have to put in the time to snag the perfect waterfowl shot.

Time to work the habitat if you own the property. Time to sit in the habitat and study the movement patterns of the birds. Time to sit in a blind and capture the image you desire.

Keep the wind to your back, stay warm and good luck!

Feel free to follow my photography adventures on Facebook (Joe Subolefsky) or Instagram (@JoeSubolefsky).

Joe Subolefsky, Harford Bird Club

Member Spotlight

Continued from page 9

In 2017, Chuck won the University of Maryland's Environmental Science Appalachian Laboratory "Richard A. Johnson Environmental Education Award", an annual recognition for significant contributions in environmental education in Allegany or Garrett Counties. The award committee also acknowledged Chuck's "countless hours maintaining Carey Run, preserving the sanctuary and ensuring it remains available as an educational resource for the children of today and tomorrow." Chuck donated his \$2000 award to the MOS Sanctuary committee.

Link to award:

<https://www.umces.edu/news/appalachian-laboratory-presents-annual-johnson-award-dr-charles-hager>

Those funds are already claimed; the house needs a new roof, and the road needs work. Maintaining the property incurs costs, but for Chuck, the expense is justified. He sees in Carey Run not only a precious nature preserve, but an invaluable, ongoing educational resource for future generations — the Hager children intend to

carry on the camp.

For Chuck, nothing is more important in his work with MOS than developing kids' interest in protecting our environment. "There are so many threats to climate stability and wildlife, we have to work smarter. The only way we can do that is to have kids who know what's going on in the world. We teach kids that they can make a difference — even in their backyards. Carey Run is a wonderful gem of place to have."

Chuck would like to acknowledge longtime MOS member Charlotte Folk, past Sanctuary Chairs Brent Byers, and current Sanctuary Chair Dominic Nucifora for their dedication to Carey Run.

The camp is always in need of better binoculars, volunteers, and speakers with enthusiasm and expertise. If you would like to assist with Carey Run Nature Camp or would like to enroll a camper, contact Chuck at drhager@verizon.net. For more info on Carey Run Sanctuary, visit www.mdbirds.org.

Barbara Johnson, Executive Council

Farmers and Birders Work Together to Save Dickcissel

During the spring of 2017, a colony of Dickcissels was discovered in the process of nest building in a field owned by the Jones family in western Howard County. Since this was only the third time this behavior was observed since the 1960's, the Howard County Bird Club was very interested in preserving the integrity of the nesting site.

Tim and Mitzi Jones were approached by a bird club member about their field and an agreement was reached with them. They agreed to not disturb the field long enough for two potential nesting cycles during the summer. In exchange, the club would reimburse them for the loss of revenue for that time period.

Individual members of the Howard County Bird Club immediately donated enough money to pay for the use of the field. The birds in the field were respectfully

observed from an adjacent road by many birders and interested local farmers who stopped by to gaze at the birds through spotting scopes.



Image Credit: Bonnie Ott

During the Club's annual potluck dinner on March 17, 2018, Tim and Mitzi were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation to thank them for cooperating with the club to protect the nesting habitat. This special relationship between the Jones family and the Club has continued through the 2018 nesting cycle with the Dickcissels again returning to the field and the Jones family again letting it stand fallow until the birds had fledged.

Mary Lou Clark, Howard County

Maryland Ornithological Society Membership Registration Form

The benefits received from Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) membership dues are not considered to be substantial, as determined by criteria in IRS Publication 526. Therefore, members can claim a tax deductible charitable contribution for the full amount of their membership dues.

The MOS membership year begins September 1

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ @ _____

Home Phone () _____ - _____

Work Phone () _____ - _____

Dues category (Check One)

Individual \$20 Household \$25 Junior \$5 Sustaining \$50 Life \$1,000

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please indicate if you would like to receive the MOS bi-monthly publication *The Maryland Yellowthroat* via mail or view from the MOS website.

I would like to receive *The Maryland Yellowthroat* via mail: YES / NO

Please make your check payable to the **Maryland Ornithological Society**, or MOS, and mail it with this completed form to the address below. Thank you for joining MOS! Check the calendar for a birding event near you!

MOS Treasurer

**Maryland Ornithological Society
PO Box 105, Monrovia, MD 21770-0105**

MOS does not release membership lists to any other organization. MOS only uses it for communication with its members.

BIRDING CALENDAR

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit:

<https://mdbirds.org/calendar/>.



11/1/2018	8 AM - 12 PM	Taylor's Landing	Birding the C&O Canal	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Meet at Taylors Landing. Call leader George Warrick, 301-799-9059, for details.
11/1/2018	3 PM - 5 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Lake Artemesia Bird Walk	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
11/3/2018	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Fran Uhler Natural Area	Bird Walk at Fran Uhler	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com, for more information. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at E end of Lemons Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State U. No reservations needed.
11/3/2018	7:30 AM - 5 PM	Irish Grove Sanctuary	Birding at Irish Grove	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. For information, contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net. Description: We will travel to Irish Grove Sanctuary, for migrating and resident marsh species and to help with the annual workday. Meet at the Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 AM or Irish Grove in Somerset Co, at 8:15 AM. Lunch will be provided; our club will be bringing desserts, so contributions to that will be appreciated. We need to have a head count one week before the trip, so please let Ellen know if you plan to attend.
11/3/2018	8 AM - 4:30 PM	Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge	Chincoteague NWR	Host: YMOS. Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com. Description: This is a great opportunity to get a good look at a lot of bird species. Waterfowl will be back, and Chincoteague provides a unique opportunity to explore many types of habitats. Lodging will be provided Fri and/or Sat nights for students coming from a distance.
11/3/2018	9:30 AM - 1 PM	Mt. Pleasant Farm	Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm Sky Watch	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Russ Ruffing, ruff2@verizon.net. Description: This trip will be strictly a sky watch for late-migrating raptors and other potential goodies. Hope for a north wind! Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, light-colored sun glasses, comfortable lawn chair (recliners are best), binocular, scope, and camera if you like. Participants can also walk the Conservancy trails if sky-watching proves non-productive. Facilities available. Handicap accessible.
11/4/2018	7 AM - 12 PM	Terrapin Park	Birding at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center and Terrapin Park	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Danny Poet, 401-827-8651. Description: Two of southern Queen Anne County's top birding areas should provide numerous warblers, thrushes, orioles and early raptors. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM or meet leader at the Terrapin Park parking lot at 7:30 AM.
11/4/2018	7:30 AM - 5 PM	Bombay Hook NWR	Bombay Hook Birding	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Dave Larkin, larkin3001@comcast.net or 410-569-8319. Description: This beautiful reserve in Delaware with its diverse coastal wetland habitats offers great promise for a variety of shorebirds, waterfowl, wading species, and raptors and songbirds. Meet at the commuter parking lot near Havre de Grace on Rts.155/I-95 at 7:30 AM.
11/4/2018	8 AM - 11 AM	Centennial Park	Centennial Park	Host: Howard Bird Club. Leaders Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrrpeters.org. Description: Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available. Meet at west end parking lot.
11/4/2018	8 AM - 12 PM	Oaks Landfill	Birding at Oaks Landfill	Host: Montgomery County Bird Club. Contact leader Mark England, 240-207-3132 (home) or 240-375-4500 (cell) for reservations and more information. Description: Explore this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Mostly open terrain on a gravel road, including two pond views and one hill climb of moderate difficulty. Possible sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. Leader will have scope for distant birds. We have special permission to enter this closed to the public landfill so reservations are essential. Limit 16.

11/4/2018	8:30 AM - 12 PM	NCR Trail	Ashland NCR Trail and Paper Mill Flats Birding	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net. Description: Trip to two locations for marsh birds, wintering waterfowl and late fall songbirds. Bring spotting telescope if you have one. Meet at NCR Trail parking lot north side of Ashland/Paper Mill Rd.
11/7/2018	All day	Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch	Trip to Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact: Kevin Graff, 410-967-5896 (text only) or keyweststyle2001@gmail.com. Description: Join us for a fun day looking for golden eagles and northern goshawks! Bring a cushion to sit on and warmer clothing than you think you might need! We will plan to stay at the hawk watch for 3-4 hours, weather permitting. Also bring lunch and snacks. Meet at 8 AM at Millersville P&R.
11/7/2018	8 AM - 11 AM	Fort McHenry	First Wednesday at Ft. McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mary Chatelat, 410-665-0769. Description: One of a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in inclement weather. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate.
11/9/2018	9:15 PM 12 AM	Lamb's Knoll	Saw-whet Owl Banding at Lambs Knoll	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Contact Anna Hutzell, amp8185@aol.com or 301-797-8454, to register. Description: Observe Saw-whet Owl banding by Steve Huy at Lambs Knoll. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a flashlight, and be prepared to stay as late as midnight. Children are welcome. Meet at the Boonsboro P&R.
11/10/2018	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Eastern Neck NWR	Birding at Eastern Neck	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leaders Tom Congersky, jnjtcon@zoominternet.net or 410-910-6182, Eric Vangrin and Tom Gibson, 410-734-4135 or gibsonlld@aol.com. Description: Explore this little known Eastern Shore gem. The diverse habitat of the Refuge and the likely variety of waterfowl, shore birds, raptors and passerines and make this a must do trip. Meet at the P&R in Havre de Grace.
11/10/2018	8 AM - 12 PM	Waterford Farm	Sharps at Waterford Farm	Host: Howard Bird Club. Leader Wes Earp, wesandsue@gmail.com or 410-531-3197. Description: Diverse habitats and good birding opportunities. Moderate walking on this working farm. Port-a-pots available. Knee-high waterproof footwear is advisable. Meet at farm parking area, through barns on right.
11/10/2018	9 AM - 2 PM	Point Lookout SP	Birding at Point Lookout SP	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Please RSVP to leader Marcia Watson, marshwren50@comcast.net. Description: We will explore the varied habitats of Point Lookout with a focus on songbirds, migrating hawks, and waterfowl. Brown-headed Nuthatches are a specialty. Bring lunch and snacks. Meet at the Park Office.
11/10/2018	10 AM - 5 PM	Conowingo Dam	Eagle Day at Conowingo	Host: Cecil Bird Club and Exelon. Contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com, for additional details. Description: Exelon holds its annual eagle festival at Fisherman's Wharf, Conowingo Dam. The Cecil Bird Club will have a table. Come join the festivities.
11/10/2018	All day		Local Hawk Watch	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Leader Tom Humphrey, 240-793-2508. Description: Tom will lead a search for migrating hawks. Date and location dependent on weather conditions.
11/11/2018	6:30 AM - 5 PM	Prime Hook NWR	Trip to Prime Hook NWR	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Charles Hopkins, 443-786-6332. Description: In search of waterfowl, sparrows, and possible late migrants. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30AM.
11/11/2018	8 AM - 11 AM	Quiet Waters Park	Birding at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Dotty Doherty, 443-926-3054 or dottyholcombdoherty@gmail.com. Description: Birders will enjoy trails winding through forests and past grassy fields on a paved path. \$6 charge if you don't have a county park sticker.
11/11/2018	8 AM - 11 AM	Centennial Park	Centennial Park	Host: Howard Bird Club. Leader Mary Lou Clark, doctorfx_99@yahoo.com Description: Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available. Meet at west end parking lot.



11/11/2018	8 AM - 12 PM	Blackwater NWR	Trip to Blackwater NWR	Host: Kent County Bird Club. If you have questions, contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: Search for waterfowl, late shorebirds, and raptors including many eagles. Bring lunch. Meet at Dollar General parking lot off Philosopher's Terrace, Chestertown.
11/11/2018	9 AM - 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Marshy Point Birding	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410 626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com. Description: Half-day trip for winter waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Boots advisable, telescopes useful.
11/11/2018	10 AM - 5 PM	Shawnee State Park	Birding at Shawnee SP	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: Trip to Shawnee SP and Alleghany Front Plateau. Meet at the Diehl Boat Ramp off Rt 96. Lunch at Jean Bonnett Tavern in Bedford.
11/12/2018	All day	Hughes Hollow (McKee-Besher WMA)	Basics of Sparrow ID at Hughes Hollow	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. For reservations, time, and directions, contact one of the co-leaders: Lydia Schindler, lydia13621@gmail.com or Linda Friedland linnet1@verizon.net. Description: Sparrows are often referred to as LBJs (little brown jobs) because of the initial difficulty in sorting them out. Hughes Hollow is a good place to spend the morning learning and reviewing basic field marks that are key to identification. In addition to common species, like White-throated, Song and Swamp, we'll keep an eye out for less-likely White-crowned and Field. This trip is primarily for beginners but all are welcome. Limit 8.
11/15/2018	3 PM - 5 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Lake Artemesia Bird Walk	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bel-Atlantic.net, for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
11/17/2018	7 AM - 5 PM	Conowingo Dam	Birding at Conowingo Dam and Swan Harbor Farm	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Bob Ringler will be leading this trip. Contact him at 410-303-2792. Description: From the wild waters of the Susquehanna to the quiet wetlands of Swan Harbor Farm, this trip has a lot of potential. Meet at the P&R lot on Rt 32, just S of Rt 26 in Eldersburg.
11/17/2018	7:30 AM - 11 AM	Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center	Breakfast With the Birds	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com. Description: Masonville Cove in Baltimore City welcomes BBC for donuts and coffee and a look at waterfowl in Baltimore Harbor. Landbirding is also good at Masonville; last year on this trip we had Fox Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird. Then we'll drive 5 minutes up the road to Middle Branch Park, another good spot for water birds. Telescopes useful. RSVP to the leader; trip limited to 25.
11/17/2018	7:30 AM - 12:30 PM		Harford Waterfowl Wild Card Tour	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Josh Emm, 410-937-6790 or apistopanchax@gmail.com. Description: Search for hard to find waterfowl species. Both experienced birdwatchers interested in finding rarities and beginners interested in learning the basics of waterfowl identification will enjoy this trip. Scopes helpful. Locations will be determined based on recent sightings and known hot spots.
11/17/2018	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Governor Bridge Natural Area	Governor Bridge Bird Walk	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. For more information contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. No reservations needed.
11/17/2018	8 AM - 12 PM	Fort McHenry	Saturday Monitoring Walk at Ft. McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 or drbeanes@verizon.net. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescope can be useful. Cancelled in bad weather. Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate.
11/17/2018	8 AM - 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Birding at Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club, Audubon and Maryland Zoo. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. Meet at 3001 East Dr.



11/17/2018	8 AM - 12 PM	Fair Hill NRMA	Birding at Fair Hill	Host: Cecil Bird Club. Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net. Description: Fair Hill is one of Cecil County's birdiest spots. A variety of habitats, including woods, fields and wetlands, means that we will see a number of different birds. Portions of the trail may be muddy, so boots are recommended. Meet at the Foxcatcher Farm Covered Bridge parking lot on Tawes Dr. There is an honor system daily fee (\$3 Maryland residents; \$4 out-of-state visitors).
11/17/2018	10 AM - 12 PM	Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary	Bird Walk at Audrey Carroll Sanctuary	Host: Audubon Society of Central MD. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071. Description: Bi-monthly naturalist-led walk.
11/18/2018	7 AM - 12 PM	Oxford Conservation Park	Birding in Oxford and Environs	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leaders Tom Corl, 202-215-1684 or tom.corl@gmail.com, and Ron Ketter, rketter@verizon.net. Description: Explore the newly established Oxford Conservation Park for sparrows and meadowlarks, and possibly winter birds such as Horned Lark and Pipits. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM OR meet the leaders at 7:20 AM at the Town Park in Oxford, across from the Town Hall. Breakfast Host Sue Henyon in Oxford.
11/18/2018	8 AM - 11 AM	Centennial Park	Centennial Park	Host: Howard Bird Club. Leaders Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrpeters.org. Description: Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available. Meet at west end parking lot.
11/23/2018	All day	Blackwater NWR	Trip to Blackwater NWR	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Peter Hanan, 301-580-2785 or peter.hanan@icloud.com. Description: Join us for the annual black Friday birding trip to the magnificent Blackwater for waterfowl, shorebirds and specials, such as Brown-headed Nuthatches and Redheaded Woodpeckers. We will be stopping in fields along the way to look for Horned Larks and Meadowlarks. After an early dinner at Old Salty's on Hooper Island we will look for owls on the drive home. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Bay 50 at 7:30 AM.
11/24/2018	8 AM - 11 AM	Patterson Park	Birding at Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in Southeast Baltimore. With more than 205 species on record, the park is full of surprises. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of E Lombard St and S Patterson Park Ave.
11/24/2018	8 AM - 12 PM	Conowingo Dam	Conowingo Gull/Eagle Watch	Host: Harford Bird Club. Contact leader Dr. Dennis Kirkwood, newark-farms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905, for more information. Description: Meet at Fishermen's Park just below Conowingo Dam to begin the search for Bald Eagles, Black and Turkey Vultures, various gulls, waterfowl and herons.
11/24/2018	8 AM - 12 PM	Eastern Neck NWR	Kent County Waterfowl Trip	Host: Kent County Bird Club. If you have questions, please contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: Start to work off Thanksgiving dinner as we tour Kent County waters, including Eastern Neck, to look for a variety of recently-arrived geese, ducks and some non-waterfowl as well. Half day, dress warmly & bring snacks. Meet at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown.
11/24/2018	8 AM - 5 PM	Blackwater NWR	Trip to Blackwater NWR	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Please RSVP to the leader, Ken Cohen, kvulture@aol.com. Description: Field trip to Blackwater for wintering waterfowl, eagles and other raptors, lingering shorebirds and songbirds.†Meet at the Bowie P&R to carpool.
11/24/2018	9 AM - 5 PM	Conowingo Dam	Eagle Watch at Conowingo Dam	Host: Cecil Bird Club. Leader Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com. Description: Conowingo Dam is one of the premier eagle watching sites in the east. In addition to eagles, there will likely be other birds of interest, particularly gulls and ducks. Meet at Fisherman's Park below the Dam and stay as little or as long as you want. Bring scope if you have one. Optional: lawn chair, blanket, hot drinks, and snacks. Dress for possible extreme cold and windy conditions.



11/25/2018	6:30 AM - 12 PM	Eastern Neck NWR	Birding at Eastern Neck	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Jeff Effinger, 410-443-5016. Description: Burn off some Thanksgiving leftovers with a trip to one of Maryland's premier waterfowl wintering areas. Bring lunch, drinks. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM.
11/25/2018	8 AM - 11 AM	Centennial Park	Centennial Park	Host: Howard Bird Club. Leaders Karen and Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731 or KJHeff122@gmail.com. Description: Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available. Meet at west end parking lot.
11/25/2018	8 AM - 12 PM	Lilypons Water Gardens	Birding at Lilypons and New Design Road	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Call leader for reservation (required) and more information: Clive Harris clivegharris@yahoo.com. Description: Wintering field birds, targeting Fox and Tree Sparrows, possibly Virginia Rail and American Bittern.
11/25/2018	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Fran Uhler Natural Area	Bird Walk at Fran Uhler	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com, for more information. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at E end of Lemonis Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State U. No reservations needed.
12/1/2018	8 AM - 2 PM	Lake Elkhorn	Howard Waterfowl Search	Host: Howard Bird Club. Leader Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net or 410-461-1643. Description: Visit the Columbia lakes to search for gulls, ducks, grebes, loons and other waterfowl. Easy walking involved. Plan to carpool. Bring lunch and drinks. Scopes helpful. Facilities available. Meet at Broken Land Parkway parking lot at Lake Elkhorn.
12/1/2018	All day	Bombay Hook NWR	Field Trip to Bombay Hook NWR	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. For more information, contact trip leaders Betty Pitney, 410-543-1853, and Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net. Description: Search for migrants and winter residents, including Snow Geese and other waterfowl, hawks, harriers and eagles. Meet at the Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 AM or the Bombay Hook Visitor Center parking lot at 9 AM. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks.
12/2/2018	7 AM - 12 PM	Blackwater NWR	Birding in Dorchester County	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Dave Bent, 410-822-2113. Description: We will explore Cambridge, Egypt Road and Blackwater NWR. There may be an opportunity to join with Harry Armistead as he leads the bird walk at Blackwater. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM.
12/2/2018	7:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Kinder Farm Park	Birding at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: Join us for the monthly walk along paved paths as well as grass and dirt paths through varied habitat. We will be looking for Fox Sparrows and other winter residents.
12/2/2018	8 AM - 12 PM	Piscataway NP	Birding at Piscataway NP	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact the leader, David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information and car-pooling options. Description: Field trip for wintering waterfowl, gulls, and songbirds. Meet at the fishing area at the N end of Wharf Rd.
12/2/2018	9 AM - 12 PM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Birding at Marshy Point	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410 626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com. Description: Search for winter waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Boots advisable, telescopes useful.
12/5/2018	8 AM - 12 PM	Fort McHenry	First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mary Chatelat, 410-665-0769. Description: One of a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in inclement weather. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate.
12/6/2018	3 PM - 5 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.



12/8/2018	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Sandy Point State Park	Birding at Sandy Point and Surrounding Areas	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Lynn Davidson and Hal Wierenga, 410-353-3776 or hal.lynn@comcast.net. Description: A great opportunity to see wintering waterfowl and resident passerines along the Chesapeake Bay. Dress warmly because the breeze off the water can be brisk! Meet at Bay 50 shopping center at 7:30 AM.
12/8/2018	8 AM - 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Birding at Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club, Audubon and Maryland Zoo. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. Meet at 3001 East Dr.
12/8/2018	8 AM - 5 PM	Bombay Hook NWR	Bombay Hook Birding Trip	Host: Cecil Bird Club. Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net. Description: Bombay Hook is a wintering home for thousands of snow and ducks. Join members of the Cecil Bird Club to this exciting destination. Dress for extreme cold. Bring snacks, lunch, hot drinks. Meet at Dunkin Donuts/Big Elk Mall at 8 AM.
12/8/2018	All day	Blackwater NWR	Birding Trip to Blackwater	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Contact leader Kathy Calvert, 301-810-5677, for meeting time and location. Description: Search for wintering waterfowl at Maryland's premier wildlife refuge. Mostly driving with frequent stops. Scopes helpful.
12/9/2018	7 AM - 12 PM		Birding Eastern Talbot Fields and Landings	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Charles Hopkins, 443-786-6332. Description: There are birds in those apparently bare winter fields and lots to see at the landings along the Choptank and Tuckahoe Rivers. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM.
12/9/2018	8 AM - 11 AM	Quiet Waters Park	Birding at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com. Description: Birders will enjoy trails winding through forests and past grassy fields on a paved path. \$6 charge if you don't have a county park sticker.
12/9/2018	All day	Blackwater NWR	Birding Trip to Blackwater NWR	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leader Mark England, 240-207-3132(home) or 240-375-4500 (cell). Description: Early waterfowl and lingering migrants plus late afternoon marsh watch. Brown-headed Nuthatch possible. Bring lunch and drinks. Reservations required. Limit 12.
12/12/2018	7 AM - 12 PM	Hallowing Point Boat Ramp	Birding the Patuxent River	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or aln-myong@aol.com. Description: See migrating waterfowl hotspots on a guided river tour with Greg Kearns. We will leave from the Hallowing Point Boat Ramp parking lot at 9 AM, weather permitting. Dress warmly, waterproof clothing is recommended! Trip is limited to 9 participants. Please call if you are interested. Meet at Parole P&R at 7 AM.
12/15/2018	7 AM - 5 PM	Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center	Birding at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. For more information, contact Don Jewell, jewelldg@gmail.com or 410-259-4716. Description: This is a great place for ducks, sparrows, and who knows what else. Meet at the P&R on Rt 32 just S of Rt 26 in Eldersburg.
12/15/2018	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Governor Bridge Natural Area	Bird Walk at Governor Bridge	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at the parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. No reservations needed.
12/15/2018	8 AM - 12 PM	Fort McHenry	Saturday Monitoring Walk at Ft. McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 or drbeanes@verizon.net. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescope can be useful. Cancelled in bad weather. Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate.
12/15/2018	8 AM - 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Birding at Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in Southeast Baltimore. With more than 205 species on record, the park is full of surprises. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of E Lombard St and S Patterson Park Ave.



12/20/2018	3 PM - 5 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bel-Atlantic.net , for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. †No reservations needed.
12/30/2018	9 AM - 12 PM	Patuxent Research Refuge, Visitor Center, South Tract	Birding at Patuxent Research Refuge, South Tract	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. For further information, contact leader Ken Cohen, kvulture@aol.com . Description: Explore the seasonal variations in bird use of the habitats at South Tract. Be prepared to walk up to 2 miles. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Target species include migrating warblers, flycatchers, vireos, sparrows. Meet in the parking lot of the Visitor Center off Powder Mill Rd.
1/1/2019	8 AM - 12 PM	Mt. Pleasant Farm	Start Your Year List	Host: Howard Bird Club. Leader Kurt Schwarz, krschwarz@verizon.net or 410-461-1643. Description: Easy walking on woodland trails. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year where every bird is new! Facilities available. Meet at the Howard Conservancy, Mount Pleasant Farm.
1/1/2019	8 AM - 12 PM	Georgetown Reservoir, DC	Earliest Bird Walk Georgetown Reservoir and DC/ MD Hotspots	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leader Mike Bowen, 301-530-5764 or dhm-bowen@yahoo.com . Description: Start the New Year right. Meet at Georgetown Reservoir, DC, by the gate leading to the dike between the pools. Itinerary will be different this year due to new parking restrictions along the route. Reservations required. Strict limit 20 participants who absolutely must be prepared to carpool.
1/1/2019	8:30 AM - 12 PM	North Point State Park	Birding at North Point SP	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com . Description: Start the New Year birding. Varied habitats including marsh, woods and beach. Expect waterfowl, sparrows and raptors. Scopes useful. Entrance fee \$3 unless you have pass.
1/1/2019	8:30 AM - 12 PM	Perryman Area	Birding Perryman Area	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Phil Powers, birds@md308@gmail.com or 410-569-8319. Description: Celebrate the New Year and/or recover from New Year's Eve by birding the Perryman Area. Meet at the Aberdeen Walmart parking lot in the corner farthest from Rt 40.
1/2/2019	8 AM - 12 PM	Fort McHenry	First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mary Chatelat, 410-665-0769. Description: One of a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in inclement weather. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate.
1/3/2019	3 PM - 5 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bel-Atlantic.net , for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. †No reservations needed.
1/5/2019	7:30 AM - 12 PM	Fran Uhler Natural Area	Bird Walk at Fran Uhler	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com . Description: Monthly walk. Meet at E end of Lemonis Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State U. No reservations needed.
1/5/2019	8 AM - 12 PM	Eastern Neck NWR	Birding at Eastern Neck NWR	Host: Kent County Bird Club. If you have questions, please contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com . Description: Kick off your birding year with a half-day search for waterfowl, eagles, and winter land birds. Joint trip with Friends of Eastern Neck, you must pre-register at http://bit.ly/2vWPDBt . Space is limited, sign up early. Meet at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown.
1/5/2019	All day	Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary	Midwinter Bird Count: Audrey Carroll	Host: Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082. Description: Meet at the Sanctuary at 6:30 AM, and be prepared to visit all parts of the sanctuary's 129 acres. You may want your waterproof boots.

BIRDING

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit:

<https://mdbirds.org/calendar/>.



1/6/2019	8 AM - 12 PM	Loch Raven Point	Birding at Loch Raven Point and Dam	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net, and Nancy O'Hara, 443-286-0922 or noh529@gmail.com. Description: Morning trip to see ducks, grebes, coots and other water birds. Meet at Loch Raven Point (public area on Loch Raven Drive, just west of Bridge #1). Our second stop will be Loch Raven Dam. Scopes useful. Trip canceled in snow, rain, or slippery conditions. RSVP required in case trip is canceled.
1/6/2019	All day		Coastal Birding Trip	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. For more information contact trip leader Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net. Description: Coastal birding trip from Ocean City, MD to Cape Henlopen, DE for winter birds. Meet at the Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 AM or the OC inlet parking lot at 8:30 AM. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks.

MEETING CALENDAR

For more details about an event listed in the

MOS Calendar, please visit:

<https://mdbirds.org/calendar/>.



11/1/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	Homewood at Crumland Farms	Meeting: Frederick Bird Club	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Description: Murray Bakst will speak on "Bird Sex and Breeding".
11/3/2018	5 PM - 9 PM	Penn Alps Restaurant	Annual Banquet	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Description: Katie Fallon, author of "Cerulean Blues" and "Vulture Private Life of an Unloved Bird", will speak on Saving the Cerulean Warbler. The cost of the dinner is \$25. Make checks payable to AG Bird club and mail to Carol McDaniel, 437 Serenity Dr, Grantsville, MD 21536. Reservations must be made by Oct 28.
11/7/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	Carroll Nonprofit Center	Meeting: Carroll County Bird Club	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com . Description: "A Celebration of Bird Song!" by Wil Hershberger
11/8/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	Robinson Nature Center	Meeting: Howard Bird Club	Host: Howard Bird Club. Info: Mary Lou Clark, 410-465-4061. Description: "Nicaragua: Birds, Volcanoes and Cultural History," by Joyce Kelly. This trip focused on the west coast of Nicaragua, highlighting several nature preserves. Hospitality 7 PM: meeting/program 7:30 PM.
11/12/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	Bayleigh Chase Auditorium	Meeting: Talbot Bird Club	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Speaker TBA
11/13/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum	Meeting: Baltimore Bird Club	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Description: Lou Taylor on "Photographing Birds." Lou Taylor, a BBC member and a bird/nature photographer, will talk about how to become a better bird photographer. His talk will touch on techniques and best practices that beginners through advanced photographers will find useful. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:20 PM.
11/13/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 2nd floor	Meeting: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Description: Birds of Trinidad and Tobago, presented by Martyn Kenefick.
11/13/2018	7:30 PM - 9 PM	Heron Point	Meeting: Kent County Bird Club	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Description: "The Falkland Islands" presented by Don Messersmith.
11/14/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	Potomac Presbyterian Church	Meeting: Montgomery Bird Club	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Description: Claire Nemes on "Cats and Birds: What We Know, What We Don't, and How To Help".

11/15/2018	7:30 PM - 9 PM	Caroline County Public Library	Meeting: Caroline County Bird Club	Host: Caroline County Bird Club. Description: Daniel and Jonathan Irons, presenters. "Youth Birding in Maryland".
11/26/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	MAC Education Center	Meeting: Tri-county Bird Club	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. Contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawller534@comcast.net, for more info. Description: "Birds and Environmental Education at the Ward Museum" presented by Aurelio Giannitti, Education Director, Ward Museum.
11/27/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	Greenhouse Class-room, Cylburn Arboretum	Board Meeting	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Description: While only authorized Board members have a vote, any Club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. Call any club officer or board member for details.
11/27/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	Mt. Aetna Nature Center	Meeting: Washington County Bird Club	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Call 301-797-8454 for details. Description: Program: the film "Cape May Fall Flight."
11/28/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	Kinder Farm Park	Meeting: Anne Arundel Bird Club	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com. Description: "John W. "Bud" Taylor: Naturalist, Friend to All". The life and legacy of renowned Maryland wildlife artist and AABC member Bud Taylor will be shared by his friend and colleague, Dr. Matt Perry.
12/1/2018	10 AM - 12PM	Piney Run Park	MOS Board Meeting	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Volunteers are needed to host and provide food items. Please contact Jessica Ealick at 410-382-9022 if you would like to help out. Description: Meeting will begin at 10 AM.
12/4/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	Greenhouse Class-room, Cylburn Arboretum	Meeting: Baltimore Bird Club	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Description: "Pelagic Birding in the Mid-Atlantic" presented by Matt Hafner. Matt will talk about his experience leading pelagic trips offshore MD and DE. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, presentation starts about 7:15 PM.
12/5/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	Carroll Nonprofit Center	Meeting: Carroll County Bird Club	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Contact Don Jewell, jeweldg@gmail.com. Description: "New Rail Research at Jug Bay" by Greg Kearns.
12/6/2018	6 PM - 9 PM	Homewood at Crumland Farms	Holiday Dinner and Meeting: Frederick	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Please make reservations with and send money to Treasurer Grace Borell before 11/20/2017. Make checks payable to FBC. Description: Wil Hershberger will be our featured speaker, on "A Celebration of Birdsong". We will also hold our fantastic silent auction.
12/11/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 2nd floor	Meeting: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Description: Annual Holiday Social and Movie Night. Featured film is "High Tide in Dorchester", concerning sea level rise, erosion, and climate change in Dorchester County. Free and open to the public. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time.
12/11/2018	7:30 PM - 9 PM	Heron Point	Meeting: Kent County Bird Club	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Description: "A Visit to the Galapagos Islands" with Kevin & Karen Heffernan (tentative topic).
12/12/2018	6 PM - 9 PM		Planning Meeting: Talbot Bird Club	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Hosts Priscilla and Paul Thut, 410-745-6657 or pthut@hughes.net. Description: Spring planning meeting and covered dish supper.
12/12/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	Potomac Presbyterian Church	Meeting: Montgomery Bird Club	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Description: Wine and cheese followed by a Bird Quiz led by Evelyn Ralston. Test your skills at bird identification based on Evelyn's and others' bird photographs and other means of getting a bird ID.

For more details about an event listed in the

MEETINGS

MOS Calendar, please visit:

<https://mdbirds.org/calendar/>



12/13/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	Robinson Nature Center	Meeting: Howard Bird Club	Host: Howard Bird Club. Info: Mary Lou Clark, 410-465-4061. Description: "Natural Wonders of Assateague Island," by Mark Hendricks. Mark is an award-winning wildlife photographer and writer who uses his camera as a storytelling tool for conservation purposes. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 PM
12/19/2018	7 PM - 9 PM	Kinder Farm Park	Meeting: Anne Arundel Bird Club	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com. Description: "Decoding Bird/Aircraft Collisions" with Jim Whatton of the Smithsonian Institution's Feather Identification Lab. We will discuss the birdstrike identification process, highlighting examples using whole feathers, DNA barcoding, and feather microstructure.
1/3/2019	7 PM - 9 PM	Homewood at Crumland Farms	Meeting: Frederick Bird Club	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Contact Don Hambright, fbcprez@aol.com. Description: Orietta Estrada will talk about her Big Year.
1/5/2019	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM		Annual Holiday Party	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Sue and Splinter Yingling, hostess/host. Please coordinate with the Yinglings for directions and to bring a dish at syingling@mac.com or 410-857-0902. Description: Talk birds, eat, drink, and have fun with fellow birders.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS

12/15/2018	CBC: Allegany	Host: Compiler J.B. Churchill, jchurchi@atlanticbb.net
12/15/2018	CBC: Middle River	Host: Contact compiler Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com, for area assignment with one of the sector coordinators. Description: Birders of all levels are welcome and urged to participate in this annual post-migration bird census in a 15 mile diameter circle in eastern Baltimore County.
12/15/2018	CBC: Oakland	Host: Contact compiler Connie Skipper, 301-387-5227 or 240-321-8021, or connieskipper@hohnet.com.
12/15/2018	CBC: Washington County	Host: Contact Mark Abdy at mjabdy@yahoo.com or 301-432-7696 to participate. Description: Tally and potluck dinner begin at 5 PM on the lower level of the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. Please bring a dish to share. Place settings and drinks will be provided.
12/15/2018	CBC: Washington, DC	Host: Contact Carol Hayes at Audubon Naturalist Society, carol.hayes@anshome.org or 301-652-9188 x10.
12/15/2018	CBC: Wachapreague, VA	Host: For more information, contact Dr. Marilyn Ailes at 757-990-1248 or imailles@verizon.net. Come join the fun in a beautiful part of the Eastern Shore of Virginia!
12/15/2018	CBC: Charles Town, WV	Host: Please contact Bob Dean for additional info or to volunteer at dean8189@gmail.com or 304 671-4995.
12/15/2018	CBC: York, PA	Host: Compiler: Bernie Frick, 717-843-6675 or bernardfrick@alum.lehigh.edu. The southern area of this count circle includes a portion of MD in northern Carroll County. Alternate date Jan 5, 2019.
12/16/2018	CBC: Catoctin Mountain	Host: Compiler Kathy Brown, 301-865-1369. Description: Catoctin Christmas Count #66. Birders of all ages and levels of experience needed! If you can't be in the field, but live within 7.5 miles of Thurmont, help by counting and reporting your feeder birds. Backup date December 29.
12/16/2018	CBC: Jug Bay	Host: Contact compiler Marcia Watson, marshwren50@comcast.net, to be put in touch with a sector leader to receive an area assignment. Description: Volunteers are needed to census birds in a 15-mile diameter circle centered near Jug Bay. The circle covers parts of Anne Arundel, Prince George's, and Calvert counties. Choose your own start and stop times, then come to a tally rally at the end of the day to share your data and socialize.
12/16/2018	CBC: Lower Kent Co	Host: Contact compiler Nancy Martin, borealdee@gmail.com, for area assignments or more information. Description: Covers area from S of Chestertown & Tolchester to Eastern Neck Island. Full day of counting, followed by count down dinner.

12/16/2018	CBC: Point Lookout	Host: Compiler Bob Boxwell, 410-610-5124 or bobboxwell@hotmail.com.
12/16/2018	CBC: Port Tobacco	Host: Compiler Mike Callahan, 240-765-5192 or raptorsrulemc@gmail.com.
12/16/2018	CBC: Salisbury	Host: Join this traditional holiday birding event by contacting the compiler, Mike Walsh at 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net.
12/16/2018	CBC: Seneca, MD and VA	Host: Compiler is Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net.
12/16/2018	CBC: Talbot	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Count coordinator/compiler: Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002 or wbell2@washcoll.edu. Description: If you have not participated in the past, please give some thought to doing so this year. Potluck Dinner 5:30 PM at Christ Episcopal Church, St. Michael's, in parish hall. Compilation begins after dinner. Dinner coordinator: Priscilla Thut (410-745-6657; pthut@hughes.net) Call if you have a question about what to bring.
12/16/2018	CBC: YMOS	Host: Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com. Description: This is one of several Christmas Bird Counts held around the State. It is a wonderful experience but a very long day. Lodging will be provided Sat night for any participating.
12/16/2018	CBC: Manassas-Bull Run, VA	Host: To participate, contact Phil Silas at epsdcva@aol.com or register online at www.audubonva.org/christmas-bird-count/ .
12/16/2018	CBC: Nassawadox, VA	Host: Contact Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com.
12/16/2018	CBC: The Plains/Air- lie, VA	Host: To participate, contact compiler Bert Harris at bharris@cliftoninstitute.org or 615-440-0666.
12/16/2018	CBC: Southern Lan- caster, PA	Host: Contact Robert Schutsky, Coordinator, 717-548-3303 or info@birdtreks.com.
12/23/2018	CBC: Chesterville	Host: Compiler Maren Gimpel, maren.gimpel@gmail.com. Description: Covers most of eastern Kent Co and some of northern Queen Anne's.
12/23/2018	CBC: Southern Dorchester/Black- water	Host: Compiler Bruce Peterjohn, bpeterjohn@usgs.gov.
12/23/2018	CBC: Nokesville, VA	Host: For more information or to register, contact Kim Hosen at 703-499-4954 or khosen@pwconserve.org.
12/28/2018	CBC: Central Loudoun, VA	Host: Sign up at www.loudounwildlife.org or contact compiler Joe Coleman, 540-554-2542 or joecole- man@rstarmail.com.
12/29/2018	CBC: Rock Run/ Harford	Host: Compiler Mark Johnson, marksjohnson2@gmail.com.
12/29/2018	CBC: Christmas Bird Count 4 Kids, PA	Host: John Lahr, Coordinator, 717-284-3497 or johnlahr324@gmail.com.
12/29/2018	CBC: Rehoboth, DE	Host: Contact Sally O'Byrne, salobyrne@gmail.com.
12/30/2018	CBC: Annapolis/Gib- son Island	Host: Compilers Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson, 410-647-7439 or hal.lynn@comcast.net, and Sue Ricciardi, 410- 647-9513 or susiericc@comcast.net.
12/30/2018	CBC: Patuxent River	Host: Compiler Andy Brown, 410-535-5327 or Andrew.Brown@calvertcountymd.gov.
12/30/2018	CBC: Sugarloaf	Host: Compiler Janet Millenson, 301-983-9337 or janet@twocrows.com.
12/30/2018	CBC: Cape Charles, VA	Host: Contact George Armistead, armistead.george@gmail.com.
12/30/2018	CBC: Fort Belvoir, VA and MD	Host: Contact compiler Kurt Gaskill at kurtcapt87@verizon.net or 703-768-2172.
12/30/2018	CBC: Lititz, PA	Host: Ted Nichols II, Coordinator, 717-856-3851 or tanicholsii@gmail.com.

12/30/2018	CBC: Cape Henlopen/Prime Hook, DE	Host: Contact Frank Rohrbacher, rohrbaf@aol.com.
1/1/2019	CBC: Bowie	Host: Compiler David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212, mozurk@verizon.net. Description: Volunteers are needed to census birds in a 15-mile diameter circle in the vicinity of Bowie. Choose your own start and stop times, then come to a tally rally at the end of the day to share your data and socialize.
1/5/2019	Midwinter Bird Count: Audrey Carroll	Host: Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082. Description: Meet at the Sanctuary at 6:30 AM, and be prepared to visit all parts of the sanctuary's 129 acres. You may want your waterproof boots.
1/5/2019	CBC: Calmes Neck, VA	Host: Compiler Margaret Wester, margaretwester@hotmail.com. The center point of this count circle is the route 7 bridge over the Shenandoah River. It includes part of Clarke and Loudoun counties in VA and a bit of WV.
1/5/2019	CBC: Inwood, WV	Host: Please contact Bob Dean for additional info or to volunteer at dean8189@gmail.com or 304 671-4995.
1/5/2019	CBC: Lancaster, PA	Host: Contact Roger Stoner, 717-393-9030.

Member Portal

The MOS new website <https://mdbirds.org> has been live since August 1. We hope you're enjoying the new look and features. Since one of the important events at this time of the year is membership renewal, this column will concentrate on the member portal features. Later columns will highlight other aspects and changes.

There were several reasons for including a member portal on the website. We wanted to make it easy for members, old and new alike, to pay dues and keep their contact information up to date. By having a correct set of email addresses, we can send out occasional MOS announcements and have some confidence that most members will receive them. All state-level MOS emails sent to members are approved and monitored by Maryanne Dolan, Secretary.

The member portal is protected; you must use your password to access your account. At this time there are just a few items here: your account information page, a preliminary membership list with chapter abbreviations, MOS logos, and MOS Board meeting minutes. More may be added in

the future.

Members may join and pay dues online at the website. The easiest way is to click "Chapters" on the main menu line and select your desired chapter. Look for "Membership" in the blue listings and select your membership level. You'll need to enter your contact information and, when you're ready to pay, you'll be directed to PayPal where you can pay via your account or with a credit card. You may also get to the membership page by clicking on "Join" button in the upper right, click the highlighted "chapters" text on the "Why Join MOS" page — that will bring up a map of Maryland. Select a chapter from the map, which will bring up the chapter page, and proceed as outlined above. If you'd like to join a second chapter as an affiliate member you may do that after you join a primary chapter.

As part of the account creation you'll be asked to enter a strong password. Your email is also your user ID and will remain so even if you change your email account in the future. Please access your account

to make changes to email or other contact information. Depending on your membership level you'll be asked a set of questions. You may edit those as well.

If you join a chapter via check, your contact information will be forwarded to the MOS Secretary and then uploaded to the website. You'll receive an email informing you how to ask for a password reset, then you can check that your contact information is correct and edit the information as well as items that may not have been on your membership form: such as whether to receive the *Yellowthroat* newsletter via online or by US mail, or enter additional household members if you join at that level. For questions about receiving the *Yellowthroat* online vs. US mail, please email the editor: yellowthroat@mdbirds.org

We hope you find the member portal useful. If you have questions and comments please direct them to: webmaster@mdbirds.org.

Tom Strikwerda, Webmaster

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Any MOS Member may contribute to *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. Please mail submissions to the Editor by November 28 for the Jan/Feb 2018 Issue.

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